

WANTED Two Motivated MSc. Students

The effects of restoration efforts in a modified stream basin. Do all fish benefit equally?

Are you interested in identifying which aspects of a habitat make it suitable for one species while another may look for another home? Please read further.

The Westerwoldse Aa stream basin is shaped by free-flowing streams in the upper 32 km while the lower 24 km are stagnant to slow flowing canals. Restoration efforts were conducted in the last 31 years in an effort to enhance the ecological value of these biotopes. The restoration measures included, nature-friendly margins, re-meandering, side channels, and fish passages.

Yet it remains unclear which species exactly benefit from each different measure. Therefore, we want to study the habitat use by different species. We aim to study this using telemetry (PIT) and fishing with a small beam-trawl between restored and control sites to unravel what factor makes a difference for a species to settle in a region.

The fieldwork will take place in the North-East of the Netherlands. Therefore, you will be required to be based near the region during the fieldwork period (June – August). If you have a drivers license and a car available that will make life a little easier as public transport is limited.

After data collection you will explore the collected data for relationships between the presence/absence of species and different life stages of a species.

The ratio between fieldwork and analyses is expected to be ~ 50/50.

Preferred starting date: May 2024, exact date to be discussed.

Fieldwork period: June-August

Are you interested in this research? Please send your resume and motivation to donne.mathijssen@wur.nl and leo.nagelkerke@wur.nl.

