

We are looking for a **highly motivated** and **precise** student **with interest in fish biology, morphology and/or biological invasions!**

MSc thesis

at the Aquaculture & Fisheries and Experimental Zoology chair groups

Functional feeding traits of invasive fish

Contact & further information:



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Relevance

The introduction of alien species into new ecosystems can have detrimental impacts on native flora and/or fauna, potentially leading to extirpation of native species or a shift to an alternative stable state. The impact of an invader depends on its interactions with native species, for instance through competition for food.

In this MSc research project, we aim to determine if an invasive fish species, the round goby, adjusts its feeding traits to the invaded ecosystem. To do so, we will measure the **functional morphology** (feeding traits) for populations throughout Europe and North-America. The findings of this study will tell whether this invasive species adjusts to new environments, or that a generalist feeding morphology suffices. These findings have implications for risk assessment and invasive species control.

Neogobius melanostomus

EN: Round goby

NL: Zwartbekgrondel

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Preferred starting date: September 3, 2018.

You completed at least one of the following courses: AFI-30806, AFI-31306, EZO-30306, EZO-30806.