THESIS TITLE	**The success of young fish recruitment in the Rhine River (Netherlands): a quantitative approach**
RESEARCH QUESTION	What are the success factors for the recruitment of young fish in the branches of the River rhine
SUPERVISOR	Leo Nagelkerke / Twan Stoffers
LOCATION	ZODIAC building
PERIOD	1-4-2019 - 30-9-2019

SHORT DESCRIPTION

This thesis will be part of a PhD project.

This project, initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (Rijkswaterstaat) aims at the evaluation of different management measures to enhance the populations of rheophilic fishes and the ecological quality of Dutch rivers. Fieldwork started in 2017 at 59 locations fish were collected in a total of 450 sampling events. In total more than 110,000 fishes were identified and measured! In addition more than 30 environmental variables were measured. This treasure of data holds valuable clues on the success of young fish, but these clues need to be found first. Therefore we are looking for a student who is up for this challenge. If you are interested in ecology and are good with numbers, and have an independent and inquisitive attitude, this is the project for you. You are going to process the dataset starting from data quality checking, up to performing advanced multivariate statistics. The analyses will be performed in R, so you need to be willing/capable to use this. If successful, you will be given the opportunity to co-author the article that will be written about the outcome.

RESEARCH AIM/ SCOPE

The overall aim of the PhD project is to identify the success factors for the recruitment of rheophilic fishes, which can be used for advise on management measures

REQUIREMENTS

- Interest in fish ecology
- Independent and inquisitive attitude
- Affinity with quantitative methods (R)

OTHER INFORMATION

For more information contact Dr. Ir. Leo Nagelkerke: leo.nagelkerke@wur.nl / twan.stoffers@wur.nlv