PhD position (m/f/d)
with the topic 'Benthic-pelagic particle dynamics and solute fluxes in permeable sediment impacted by bottom trawling'

Reference code: 50015935_2 – 2020/KB 2
Commencement date: as soon as possible

The Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Department for Biogeochemistry in coastal seas, invites applications for a PhD position (m/f/d) with the topic ‘Benthic-pelagic particle dynamics and solute fluxes in permeable sediment impacted by bottom trawling’. The Position is limited for three years, starting as soon as possible.

Biogeochemistry of marine sediments is closely coupled to processes in the water column by exchange of particulate organic matter and oxygen. Turnover and transport processes of organic matter and its degradation products are significantly modulated by the activity of macrofauna, but the present benthic system in the southern North Sea is significantly impacted by fisheries. The project will focus on quantifying this impact on the biogeochemical functioning of North Sea sediment with regard to the benthic turnover of carbon, iron, and nutrients.

Your tasks
- analyses of sediment and water samples
- multivariate statistics and modelling of benthic processes
- participation in seagoing research cruises
- publication of results

Your profile
- MSc degree or equivalent in a relevant natural or environmental science discipline (e.g. marine chemistry, biogeochemistry, microbiology)
- solid analytical background, preferably with knowledge in nutrient measurements and sediment analyses
- solid skills in statistics and a scientific programming language (e.g. R, Matlab, Python)
- preparedness, willingness, and proven physical ability for participation in seagoing research campaigns
- excellent skills in communication (very good English is a must, German is welcome)

Interested candidates should be highly motivated, organized, and willing to work in an interdisciplinary research team.

We offer
- multinational work environment with over 1,000 colleagues from more than 50 nations
- extensive options of vocational training (i.a. expert seminars, language courses or leadership seminars)
- flexible working hours and various models to ensure the compatibility of family and career
- excellent infrastructure, including a scientific in-house library as well as modern work spaces
- an appropriate salary related to the German public tariff (TV-AVH) up to salary level 13 plus the usual social benefits for the public employment sector

The promotion of equal rights is a matter of course for us. Severely disabled persons and those equaling severely disabled persons who are equally suitable for the position will be considered preferentially within the framework of legal requirements.