Vacancy Announcement for the position of Monitoring Control and Surveillance Officer of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, NEAFC.

Closing date 8 October.

The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, NEAFC, invites applicants for the position of Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Officer.

NEAFC is an Intergovernmental Organisation with its Secretariat in London, UK. Its mandate derives from the NEAFC Convention of 1980, as amended. The objective of the Commission is “to ensure the long-term conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources in the Convention Area, providing sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits.”

To fulfil this objective, NEAFC has adopted a number of legally-binding measures. This includes conservation and management measures to ensure the sustainable use of the fishery resources and to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur, as well as a variety of monitoring, control and enforcement measures.

NEAFC’s Contracting Parties are Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation.

The MCS Officer plays a pivotal role in helping support Contracting Parties in effectively enforcing NEAFC’s fisheries management recommendations and in particular its Scheme of Control and Enforcement. The role is being advertised at a pivotal moment for NEAFC as it introduces its Electronic Reporting System and therefore evolves the system of control and enforcement over the coming years. The role offers opportunities to further develop collaboration internationally with sister Regional Fisheries Bodies and the Food and Agriculture Organisation on MCS and Port States Measures.

The NEAFC Secretariat is a small team, so the ability to work well with colleagues and to be able to be flexible in taking on a variety of tasks at all levels to deliver the work of the Secretariat is important.

Summary description of the position

The Monitoring Control and Surveillance Officer’s functions include in particular:

- Maintaining and Developing Operational Contacts. Dealing appropriately with formal and informal enquiries/correspondence from Fisheries Monitoring Centre colleagues in Contracting Parties and their Flag States, as well as with
cooperating Non Contracting Parties, in the context of the NEAFC Scheme and Management Measures and also from commercial operators in the context of NEAFC port-State Control. An additional aspect is maintaining an operational relationship with service providers

- Carrying out general Secretariat support functions across NEAFC, this includes acting as Secretariat to NEAFC Committees, currently the Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance and the Working Group on Statistics, as well as assisting the Secretary at the Annual Meeting. This work includes helping prepare agendas and documents, including statistics, reporting on meetings and support to the Chairs.

- Working very closely with the part of the Secretariat team who are developing and implementing the new Electronic Reporting System proposed to go live in 2019, and in supporting ongoing ERS developments after this time.

- Assessing the MCS impact of Electronic Logbook data. The expectation is that the updates proposed for catch an activity reporting will provide a more accurate picture of the activities in the NEAFC RA. The MCS officer will be able to analyse all the available data to provide the best picture of activity in the area and evaluate the impact of the new system and support improvements.

- It is expected that the existing surveillance system will be updated as part of a second phase of the move to full electronic reporting and it is expected that the MCS officer will support this work including the digitalisation of inspection reporting, surveillance reporting, and performance monitoring and compliance.

- The further development of electronic logbooks and reporting is expected to require more understanding of the relevance of gear characteristics to certain fisheries. The MCS officer should be able to lead for the Secretariat in this area.

- Monitoring fishing vessel activities and evaluating compliance by Fisheries Monitoring Centres with NEAFC recommendations, as required. This role includes developing the NEAFC Compliance reports working with the Chair of the Monitoring and Compliance Committee.

- General administrative and data duties in support NEAFC’s MCS and Statistics functions. These will include some more routine activities.

- Support to inspecting Contracting Parties in implementing the inspection and surveillance elements of the scheme, advising Contracting Parties regarding the reporting requirements for ‘edge cases’ and working with Cooperating non-Contracting Parties to understand the reporting implications.
• External cooperation on MCS issues, this includes cooperation with Secretariats of other RFMOs (e.g. the North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation) as well as other organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the IMCS Network and specific projects.
• Carry out monitoring of activities and catch reporting for specific fisheries under NEAFC recommendations, including support to the NEAFC Statistics Working group.
• Support to Port State Measures carried out by Contracting Parties, which includes further developments as they arise.
• Managing relationships with cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. In the event of Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area or alerts from other RFMOS, managing the NEAFC IUU process including updating IUU lists.
• Other tasks, as instructed by the Secretary.

There will be some international travel required by the role when representing NEAFC in meetings and seminars, in particular on MCS and Port States Measures.

Given that MCS is continually evolving and that ERS is being newly implemented by NEAFC the post holder will be expected to be proactive in developing their role in enhancing NEAFC’s MCS functions. Other opportunities will need to be sought out for helping NEAFC continue its pioneering role in regional fisheries management.

Members of the Secretariat enjoy the privileges and immunities to which they are deemed to be entitled in line with NEAFC as an Intergovernmental Organisation and under the Headquarters Agreement with the Government of the United Kingdom.

The NEAFC Staff Rules set out the conditions and principles of employment and the responsibilities of the staff of the NEAFC Secretariat.

Principal qualifications:

The successful applicant will have:

• extensive knowledge and 5 to 10 year’s work experience in the fisheries MCS sector. Fisheries inspection experience at sea and in port an advantage;

• familiarity with the operation of Regional Fisheries Bodies and international cooperation. Familiarity with NEAFC will also be taken into account;

• extensive experience with using and helping develop IT systems in VMS and ERS a strong advantage
• Understanding of the UN law of the sea as applied to fisheries
• international experience a strong advantage
• a good team player, with administrative and communication skills;
• an advanced level of English;
• the applicant is required to be a citizen of one of NEAFC’s five contracting parties.

Remuneration

Remuneration in NEAFC is based on the United Nations Common System of Salaries, Allowances and Benefits, according to qualifications and experience.

Appointment procedures

The application deadline is 8 October 2018. Shortlisted applicants are expected to be available for interview in the period 29 October to 8 November 2018. The chosen candidate will be expected to take up the position by June 2019 at the latest.

Applications

For more information about NEAFC, please contact the Secretariat or consult the NEAFC website at www.neafc.org.

Applications should be in English, marked “Personal and Confidential” and must be emailed no later than 8 October 2018 (sent date of e-mail is decisive) to the following address: info@neafc.org.

Applications should include the following (please provide translations into English if applicable):

• A covering letter expressing your interest in the role and the qualities you think important for the job.
• A short essay (maximum 2 sides) on opportunities and challenges for Monitoring Control and Surveillance/fisheries management at the regional level.
• Curriculum Vitae;
• Copies of relevant academic or professional certificates;
• Two references from persons with relatively recent knowledge of the applicant’s character, qualifications and experience.

All respondents will be considered and a shortlist will be established. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted to arrange practical details for an interview.