



Artwork credit: Dwayne Yerxa, Lake of the Woods Ojibwe

MS Assistantship in Fisheries Conservation (Online) – University of Illinois, Department of Natural Resources

Agency: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

University location: Urbana, IL

Fieldwork location: Ceded Territories in Wisconsin

Job Category: Graduate Assistantship (MS)

Project: Stress response and mortality of caught-and-released ogaa (walleye)

Websites: <http://fishlab.nres.illinois.edu/>, <http://glifwc.org/>, <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Research>, <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/research.html>

Salary: Approximately \$24,000 per year, benefits, tuition waiver

Start Date: April 1, 2023 (flexible)

Last Date to Apply: Until filled

Description

We are seeking a highly motivated MS students to join our research team in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) at the University of Illinois to quantify the stress response in caught-and-released ogaa as well as post-release mortality. This project will be in collaboration with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Office of Applied Sciences, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Research. The research project has several objectives 1) evaluate the post-release mortality of ogaa in two lake classes across a range of temperatures in the summer, and 2) compare the mortality of fish caught on live bait and artificial bait, and 3) quantify the stress response and recovery of caught-and-released fish. Work will consist of both laboratory experiments and field studies and involve both behavioral and physiological responses. Results will inform policy on conservation practices to enhance and protect freshwater fisheries.

The successful student will be interacting and collaborating with people from Wisconsin's Ojibwe tribes. Thus one component of the degree program will include, with the assistance of advisors, the development and implementation of a cross-cultural experiential learning module that will focus on working with a multicultural team.

Qualifications

Minimum Qualifications: Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in a related field and respect for indigenous interests and culture. Experience with fish handling, fish care in a laboratory setting, or fisheries techniques in a field setting. Excellent writing and verbal communication skills, a strong work ethic, and the ability to both work independently and contribute to a research team. Experience planning and coordinating field teams is an asset.

Desired Experience: Demonstrated ability to conduct research independently. Research productivity, experience conducting statistical analyses, and experience communicating scientific findings through oral and written communication are important. Valid driver's license is also required.

Field work start date: Spring 2023

University start date: Fall 2023

To apply

Send an email to Cory Suski (suski@illinois.edu) and Aaron Shultz (ashultz2@illinois.edu) with a letter expressing your interests and qualifications relative to the position, a resume/CV highlighting your training and experience, an unofficial copy of prior transcripts, and contact details for two references. The selected candidate will then need to submit an application to the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences online graduate program. This application requires a minimum GPA of 3.0. GRE scores are not required.

