



Graduate Research Assistant – MS or PhD

Auburn University Fish Ecology Group
[Drs. Dennis DeVries and Russell (Rusty) Wright]

We are seeking interested and qualified applicants for a graduate student position at either the MS or PhD level to participate in a large scale, comprehensive study of the influence of dams on riverine fish populations. The overall project is combining field sampling and tracking, lab experiments, and hydrological /behavioral simulation modeling components, all in a collaborative research effort. The project on which this assistantship will be working includes effects of large lock-and-dam systems on riverine fishes, potential for fish to pass structures using spillways and lock chambers, use of hard part microchemistry and stable isotope analysis to study natal origins and fish movement as a response to the presence of dams, and laboratory study of fishes in response to effects of dams.

The Program: The Fish Ecology Group at the Ireland Center in Auburn University's School of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Aquatic Sciences is currently involved in a variety of projects investigating the ecology and management of aquatic organisms in a variety of systems. Recent/ongoing work has included the ecology of coastal fishes in the northern Gulf of Mexico, the effects of an introduced planktivore on resident fishes and other aquatic organisms in Alabama reservoirs, adaptations of freshwater fishes to life in estuarine waters, respirometry of non-game fishes to quantify thermal and DO stress, use of lock chambers to pass riverine fishes, management strategies for small impoundments, effects of flow and temperature changes due to hydropower dams on fish movement, diet, and energetics, and the effects of lock-and-dam structures on riverine fishes. Laboratory and field facilities are outstanding, including expansive pond facilities, large wet labs, controlled environment space, laboratory respirometry capabilities (including both static and swimming respirometry), and recently renovated student office space. Our staff and students work with state and federal natural resource agency biologists, travel widely for professional activities, and maintain a team approach to research.

The GRA Positions: We are seeking graduate student applicants at both the M.S. and Ph.D. levels. Students are expected to conduct their thesis/dissertation research project and complete required course work. Students will receive a stipend (currently approx. \$17,000/year for MS, \$19,000/year for PhD), waiver of both in-state and out-of-state tuition, as well as required technical help, all costs of conducting the research (including travel to field sites, supplies and equipment, etc.), and travel to scientific meetings.

Questions?? For additional information, please contact either:
Dennis DeVries (devridr@auburn.edu)
Rusty Wright (wrightr2@auburn.edu)

To Apply: Send a letter of interest, along with a current CV (including GPA and GRE scores, if available), contact information for three (3) references, and copies of transcripts to:
Dr. Dennis DeVries, devridr@auburn.edu.

