

Graduate Research Assistant –MS

Fish Ecophysiology

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 the MS level to work on a project studying the ecophysiology of nongame riverine fishes in the US southeast. Recent work in our lab has combined respirometry, swimming performance, critical temperature limits, and cellular thermal effects within a species. We continue to build on this research by investigating a spectrum of species to more broadly study the effects of dams on fishes, and the abilities of fishes to navigate potential passage structures. At a broader level, our lab is involved in a large-scale, comprehensive study of the influence of dams on riverine fish populations, and the work of this new graduate student will represent an important and integral aspect of that work.

The Program: The Fish Ecology Group at the Ireland Center in Auburn University's School of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Aquatic Sciences (<http://auburn.edu/~devridr>) is currently involved in research investigating the ecology and management of aquatic organisms in a variety of systems. Recent/ongoing work has included the effects of a peaking hydropower facility on downstream fishes, respirometry and ETS (electron transport system) measures of fishes to quantify thermal and DO stress, ecology of coastal fishes in the northern Gulf of Mexico, effects of an introduced planktivore on resident fishes and other aquatic organisms in Alabama reservoirs, adaptations of freshwater fishes to life in estuarine waters, use of lock chambers to pass riverine fishes, management of small impoundments, as well as an ongoing study of 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), laboratory facilities for conducting ETS and CT_{max} assays, and recently renovated student office space at the E.W. Shell Fisheries Center. Our staff and students work with 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 the M.S. level. Students are expected to conduct their thesis research project and complete required course work. Students will receive a stipend (currently approx. **\$21,350/year** for MS students), 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; 334/844-9322)
Rusty Wright (wright2@auburn.edu; 334/844-9311)

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 transcript copies to: Dr. Dennis DeVries (devridr@auburn.edu).

