M.S. or Ph.D. Assistantship University of Vermont –Atlantic Salmon ecology in Lake Champlain

The USGS Vermont Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research unit is seeking a highly motivated applicant for a funded Atlantic Salmon acoustic telemetry project in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont. Candidates with interests in fisheries management, acoustic telemetry, conservation genetics, and ecological modeling are especially encouraged to apply.

The graduate student will use genetic mark-recapture and acoustic telemetry to test different hypotheses related to the effectiveness of Atlantic Salmon reintroduction efforts in the Lake Champlain basin and to collect data necessary to develop a life-cycle model that will be used to guide future restoration actions in this region. Lake Champlain historically supported populations of Atlantic Salmon, but they were extirpated from the basin in the mid-1800s, which is believed to be due to overfishing, loss of spawning habitat from the construction of dams, and habitat degradation resulting from logging. Sustained stocking of Atlantic Salmon into Lake Champlain was initiated in the 1970s, but this has resulted in limited natural reproduction. Results from this project will allow us to test hypotheses related to Atlantic Salmon reproductive success, including stocking methods, overwinter survival and habitat use during their first year in the lake. The graduate student’s primary duties will include fieldwork to implant acoustic transmitters and collect genetic samples, conducting genetic analyses in the lab, statistical analyses, and manuscript preparation.

Applicants require a degree in biology, ecology, fisheries, marine science, or a related field. The position has an anticipated start date of January 2024 and is currently funded for three years, which includes stipend ($32,000 per year), tuition, and health insurance.

The Henderson Lab, and the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, are deeply committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in our field, and especially welcome applicants who contribute to the variety of backgrounds, opinions, and approaches within the school. We recognize that diversity comes in many forms (e.g., income, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, LGBTQIA+, disabilities) and we are dedicated to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone. To apply, please submit a cover letter, CV, and transcripts to Dr. Mark Henderson (mark.henderson@uvm.edu). Review of applications will begin on August 1st and continue until the position is filled.