

Position: M.S. Student Assistantship – Klamath River adult Chinook Salmon migration research



Closing Date: First review 1 November, open until filled.

Location: Cal Poly Humboldt, Department of Fisheries Biology, Arcata, California, 95519

Description:

This project will focus on the Klamath River, which is currently undergoing the largest river restoration project in the United States with the removal of four mainstem dams. The removal will open over 400 miles of river that have been inaccessible to migratory fish for nearly a century. This project is part of a large, multi-agency collaboration aiming to evaluate the abundance and migration of fishes as they ascend the river beyond the former dam sites, with a particular emphasis on ESA-listed coho salmon, fall- and spring-run Chinook salmon, and steelhead.

This specific project will employ radio telemetry methods to track migration rates and locations as adult salmon and steelhead access newly available habitats to spawn, with a particular focus

on thermal barriers or refugia. Tagging will be designed to characterize variation among run timing, species, and environmental characteristics by tagging throughout adult migration and spawning seasons. Additionally, mobile tracking will be used to supplement fixed receiver data and provide higher resolution data for fish locations between receivers and in tributaries without fixed receiver stations.

We are seeking to fill a M.S. Student Assistantship to support this telemetry project. The student will conduct mobile tracking surveys, and field data collection to assess environmental factors associated with holding habitat selection and barriers to migration. Laboratory responsibilities will include data entry and QA/QC, and data analysis to assess evidence that environmental factors influence migration behaviors. The student will also engage in regular meetings with project collaborators, including CalTrout, local Tribes, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and contribute to project reports and presentations. The selected student is expected to complete M.S. thesis of sufficient quality to also be submitted to a scientific journal.

Qualifications:

- B.S. in fisheries, natural resources, marine biology, biology, ecology, statistics, or related fields.
- Qualified for acceptance to M.S. program in Natural Resources - Fisheries Concentration at Cal Poly Humboldt.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Research experience
- Strong organizational, writing, and communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to work in collaborative teams
- Ability to conduct field work in challenging conditions
- Strong quantitative and statistical skills; experience with R (or demonstrated capacity to learn)

The selected student will enroll in the [Natural Resources graduate program](#) at Cal Poly Humboldt and work to obtain their M.S. degree within the [Fisheries Biology Department](#).

Expected start date is January 2025.

Salary: \$2500/mo x 30 mos

Tuition: \$4373/sem x 5 semesters, 6% annual increase

The student will be advised by Dr. Nicholas A. Som, faculty in the Department of Fisheries Biology, Cal Poly Humboldt and Unit Leader for the California Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and Dr. Andrew P. Kinziger, faculty in the Department of Fisheries Biology, Cal Poly Humboldt.

About Cal Poly Humboldt

Cal Poly Humboldt is a small to medium sized university located in a relatively remote area of Northern California. It sits near Humboldt Bay, 5 minutes from the beautiful coastline, nestled by majestic redwood forests. The university has numerous facilities, including the Telsonicher Marine Lab located in Trinidad (15 minutes from the main campus). Learn more about the university and location [here](#).

Cal Poly Humboldt is a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) that strives to foster an equitable and inclusive community that supports our students of diverse backgrounds. Cal Poly Humboldt is a Title IX/Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex including sexual orientation and gender identity, national origin, disability, protected Veteran Status, or any other legally protected status. More information about Cal Poly Humboldt SPF's Equal Employment Opportunity hiring can be found [here](#).

Instructions

Please email a cover letter, resume or CV, transcripts (unofficial are acceptable; official are preferred), and contact information of 3 references to nicholas.som@humboldt.edu. If available, applicants should also submit their GRE scores. If requested, you will send a formal application to the Graduate School.

Point of Contact

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