



## **MS Graduate Research Assistantship Opportunity in Fisheries Ecology and Management**

*Location: Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL*

The Center for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at Eastern Illinois University (EIU) invites applications for several MS graduate research assistantships, with a potential start date ranging from April to June 2024.

### **Research Focus:**

Candidates will have the opportunity to contribute to various funded research projects based on their experience and interests:

1. Investigating catfish population dynamics and recruitment in the Wabash River to help evaluate current management and harvest regulations. This project will provide valuable catfish (Flathead, Blue, and Channel) management recommendations and conservation strategies.
2. Studying Channel Catfish population dynamics in impoundments and assessing the efficacy of using artificial spawning structures to improve recruitment and population sizes. This project includes an outreach component involving local school groups and community engagement.
3. Exploring early life stage dynamics and sources of propagule pressure of invasive carp (*Hypophthalmichthys* spp.) in tributaries of the Wabash River. This is part of a multi-state, multi-agency cooperation to identify invasive carp spawning locations and recruitment in the Ohio River Basin.

### **Responsibilities and Benefits:**

We seek highly motivated students to assist with field sampling, laboratory work, data analyses, and report/manuscript writing. The positions include a tuition waiver and a \$1600/month stipend. Successful candidates will gain diverse experiences in aquatic sciences, cooperating on other graduate student projects and working with fisheries professionals throughout the state. Candidates will also have several opportunities to attend scientific conferences to highlight their research and network with professionals.

### **Qualifications:**

- Effective teamwork and individual work capabilities.
- Previous fisheries experience preferred, including field and lab techniques.
- Bachelor's degree with an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Ability to lift 40 pounds and work in inclement weather conditions.
- Valid driver's license with at least 4 years of driving experience.



### **Application Deadline:**

Review of applications will begin on **January 22nd, 2024**, and will continue until the positions are filled.

### **About EIU Center for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences:**

EIU boasts a robust fisheries and aquatic ecology program with 8-10 graduate students and numerous undergraduates working on diverse research topics including sportfish management, impacts of invasive species, and stream habitat restoration. We foster a collaborative environment where faculty, staff and students work together to achieve research goals while allowing students to develop their own personal research interests and experiences.

For more information, visit [EIU Center for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences | Eastern Illinois University](#)

### **To apply:**

Email a cover letter, a CV (including undergraduate GPA), undergraduate academic transcripts (unofficial okay), and a list of three professional references to **drroth@eiu.edu** using subject line “MS Application, EIU Fisheries”.

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