

Master of Science Research Assistantship on Attitudes Toward Bowfishing in Indiana

Coastal & Great Lakes Social Science Lab
Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
Purdue University

During recent years, recreational bowfishing has rapidly increased in popularity in the United States, including in Indiana. From a management perspective, bowfishing may be partially justified as a mechanism to control invasive or otherwise undesirable species. However, there are also clear challenges related to bowfishing and management of this practice, including concerns about lethal bycatch. In addition, bowfishing is little-regulated in Indiana.

We are recruiting an MS student to help understand attitudes toward bowfishing among three groups of people: the general public, anglers, and bowfishers. The student will conduct surveys and interviews and/or focus groups to better understand awareness of and attitudes toward bowfishing in Indiana.

The student is expected to start in the fall semester of 2024, though it may be possible to start late in the summer of 2024. **Applications are due April 15, 2024.**

This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in the social dimensions of angling, the role of resource management agencies in conservation, and/or understanding public attitudes toward a developing conservation issue. The successful student will expand their career options in science, resource management, and/or extension.

Inclusion and ethics

At the Coastal and Great Lakes Social Science Lab, we strive to be inclusive and we strongly encourage women, minorities, and people from traditionally underrepresented groups to apply. This is not a check-off for us: it's important.

Here's what the student will do:

- Administer an electronic survey to a panel of approximately 600 Indiana residents to understand knowledge and awareness of bowfishing, attitudes toward bowfishing, and other related questions.
- Administer a similar survey to anglers in Indiana and to bowfishers in Indiana
- Travel to bowfishing tournaments to conduct surveys of participants
- Conduct in-depth, qualitative interviews of bowfishers
- Work as part of the larger, multi-institutional project team on other research and outreach tasks as needed

Here's what the student will get:

- A world-class education from Purdue's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
- Hands-on research experience in cognitive interviewing and survey design and analysis
- Exposure to other quantitative and qualitative social science research methods
- A chance to interact with researchers and resource managers from throughout the region
- A two-year assistantship including a salary of approximately \$28,000 per year, a tuition waiver, and health insurance

Minimum requirements:

- A bachelor's degree with a major or minor from a relevant science or social science discipline OR a bachelor's degree with significant relevant experience
- GPA 3.3 or equivalent
- Good communication and writing skills
- A strong interest in collaborative, interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving
- Ability and willingness to work in team settings and independently

Preferred qualifications:

- Familiarity with aquatic conservation issues
- Experience interacting with stakeholders and communicating science
- Experience with social science research methods, potentially including interviews, surveys, or other methods

To apply:

The successful applicant will need to apply to and get accepted by the Purdue Graduate School. Before applying to Purdue, please contact Stuart Carlton

directly to discuss your research interests, academic and related work experience, and career goals and include the following:

- A brief statement of purpose describing your career goals and how this position might help
- Unofficial transcripts
- 3 letters of recommendation

Review of applications will begin on April 15, 2024 and the position will be open until filled. Purdue University is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer.

About the Coastal and Great Lakes Social Science Lab

The Coastal and Great Lakes Social Science (CGLSS) Lab is an intentionally small lab group directed by Dr. Stuart Carlton. CGLSS Lab focuses on key human dimensions issues related to sustainability in coastal and Great Lakes systems. Past projects have focused on building resilience in Great Lakes Areas of Concern, understanding behaviors related to AIS throughout the Midwest, studying trust among aquaculture producers and regulators, and more. CGLSS Lab is guided by the World Economic Forum Code of Ethics for Researchers (background at <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-02516-x> and <http://widgets.weforum.org/coe/>, .pdf at: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Code_of_Ethics.pdf)

For more information:

Contact Stuart Carlton, Assistant Director, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University (email: jsc@purdue.edu; phone: 765-494-3726).

Please also visit the website of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (<https://ag.purdue.edu/fnr/Pages/default.aspx>) for more information.

A bit about the location:

West Lafayette-Lafayette, Indiana is a metro area of over 175,000 people centrally located between Indianapolis, Indiana and Chicago, Illinois. It is an easy place to live with a high quality of life, good schools, safe neighborhoods, and excellent public facilities and amenities, and surprisingly little traffic. We are home to three Farmers Markets from May to October (<http://www.lafayettefarmersmarket.com/>), year-long festivals and community events (<http://www.homeofpurdue.com/events/annualevents.html>), and Purdue Convocations, one of the oldest year-long collegiate performing arts series, which has brought excellent concerts, lectures and performances to campus since 1902 (<https://www.purdue.edu/convocations/>).