

*****Funded MSc position: *Juvenile White Sturgeon Oxythermal Habitat Use and Survival******

Natural Resources & Environmental Studies @ UNBC

We are seeking candidates for one funded Master of Science opportunity in the [Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Program](#) in the area of Fisheries Management, specifically White Sturgeon conservation and recovery. The MSc student will work with a collaborative team of researchers in the Omineca Fish & Wildlife Section of BC Ministry of Forest Lands, Natural Resource, Operations, & Rural Development (FLNRORD), the [Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative](#) (NWSRI), and UNBC in Prince George, BC, Canada.

Research team: Drs. Mark Shrimpton and Eduardo Martins (Natural Resources & Environmental Studies, UNBC), working in partnership with Dr. Nikolaus Gantner (FLNRORD/UNBC), and NWSRI project team members.

The MSc position is part of a new interdisciplinary *Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Project* and will evaluate whether releasing hatchery-origin juvenile White Sturgeon into Fraser Lake leads to increased survival vs. past and current releases into the Nechako River. Two research themes the MSc student will explore:

1. Movements and oxythermal habitat use of hatchery-origin juvenile White Sturgeon released into Fraser Lake: Acoustic telemetry will be used to track movements and oxythermal habitat use of sturgeon. Radio telemetry will be used to track lake and river releases utilizing NWSRI telemetry station and mobile telemetry data.
2. Lake-release survival versus river-release survival: Lake-releases are conducted as a pilot effort to evaluate if predators known to exist in the Nechako River (e.g., river otters) have less access to sturgeon in a lake environment. Consequently, survival in the lake should be higher. The student will continue ongoing work on survival estimates by conducting field work at Fraser Lake and along the Nechako River.

The researchers are seeking a candidate that possess a suitable combination of the following attributes/skills:

- Academic background in fisheries management, fish ecology, conservation biology or closely related field
- Strong work ethic and time management skills, with a dedication to professionalism and scholarly conduct
- Is a team player who can work independently, taking the lead on project implementation with guidance
- An eagerness to engage with white sturgeon research and recovery efforts in BC
- Strong written and oral communication skills (i.e., writing research reports, presenting a papers)
- Knowledge/experience with planning, coordinating, or conducting boat and land-based field work safely
- Knowledge/experience with developing and conducting quantitative fisheries research

Joining our team is a great opportunity to work independently while being part of an interdisciplinary team of fisheries researchers and managers. This project will provide a challenging experience that mixes the theory and practices related to fisheries management, fish habitat restoration, and species recovery efforts.

The student is expected to enroll in UNBC's [Natural Resource and Environmental Studies](#) graduate program (NRES). Funding for this position is available through NWSRI project grants (stipend amount \$20,000/year for up to two years) from the [Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund](#) and in-kind support by FLNRORD Omineca Region. Several [Graduate Scholarships and Awards](#) are available at UNBC and prospective students are encouraged to apply. Candidates must be eligible to study in Canada and have a valid Driver's License. UNBC is committed to [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#) and all eligible are encouraged to apply.

Interested candidates may inquire via [email](#) to Dr. Nikolaus Gantner and **submit an application: 1)** A statement of relevant experience and interest in the position (1-page Cover Letter), **2)** An up-to-date curriculum vitae outlining academic standing and related experience, and **3)** Contact information for three references.

Closing: Applications are due **August 20th, 2021**.

Start date: January 2022.

Please note: Position subject to acceptance at UNBC. Year 2 funding is pending satisfactory progress.

To apply for this MSc position, email your complete application as a single PDF file with the email subject line '*Juvenile White Sturgeon Oxythermal Habitat Use and Survival*' to: nikolaus.gantner@unbc.ca