

*****Funded MA or MSc position: *Omineca Angler Preference and Diversity Study******

Natural Resources & Environmental Studies @ UNBC

We are looking for candidates for one funded Master of Arts or Master of Science opportunity in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Program in the area of study Outdoor Recreation, Conservation and Tourism. The 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) and UNBC in Prince George, BC, Canada.

Co-Supervisors: Jennifer Wigglesworth and Dr. Philip Mullins (Natural Resources & Environmental Studies), working in partnership with Dr. Nikolaus Gantner (FLNRORD & UNBC Environmental Science) and Dr. Brett Van Poorten (SFU).

The researchers recognize and are concerned about the need to foster diversity among anglers in the Omineca Region of BC. They want to support recreational freshwater fishing as a welcoming, accessible, and satisfying experience for all who want to participate, at the levels and in the ways they hope to participate. The researchers want to suggest strategies for management and provision that will, ultimately, better serve and reflect the general population of the region and province and provide equitable access to outdoor recreation and its benefits. To these ends, we seek to understand the experiences and perceptions of anglers and non-anglers from diverse gender, BIPOC, and LGBTQ2S+ communities so that they can inform management and provision. The Masters position is the frontline for this new inter-disciplinary project, which aims to position recreational freshwater fisheries management and participation socioculturally to better understand and thereby inform recreational fishery provision and management. The specific aims of the Masters research are to (a) review literature and articulate the sociocultural context and representation of angling and anglers; (b) use focus groups and/or interviews to engage with communities to learn about perceptions, experiences, motivations, and inclusionary and exclusionary practices and factors at work, and identify opportunities to better engage and manage angling for diversity, equity, and inclusion; (c) use the findings from focus groups and/or interviews to inform surveys of anglers (avid and less avid) and of non- or potential anglers about their perception of fishing, desired experiences, and factors that facilitate and constrain participation in recreational freshwater fishing. The student will analyze data collected, derive findings, and interpret these to articulate the diverse experiences, perceptions, and factors affecting anglers so as to inform fisheries management for equity and inclusion.

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

- Academic background in outdoor recreation, tourism, sport, or leisure studies
- 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 freshwater fisheries in BC and relevant fields of diverse literature
- Strong written and oral communication skills (i.e., writing research reports, presenting a paper, leading workshops)
- Knowledge/experience with equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiatives
- Knowledge/experience with sociocultural, critical, or intersectional frames of analysis
- Knowledge of recreational freshwater fisheries management approaches, including but not limited to BC
- Knowledge/experience with social science and/or qualitative research process (i.e., research processes and implementation, data collection and analysis, synthesizing findings, and writing)
- Experience with development and conduct of qualitative research methods (i.e., scheduling and conducting interviews, focus groups, or open-ended surveys; transcription, coding, and thematic analysis)

Joining our team is a great opportunity to work independently while being part of an interdisciplinary team of researchers and managers. This project will provide a challenging experience that mixes the theory and practices of sociocultural and social science research related to outdoor recreation, applied to a resource management context typically centered on fisheries biology.

The student is expected to enroll in UNBC's [Natural Resource and Environmental Studies](#) graduate program (NRES). Funding for this position is available through project grants (stipend amount \$17,500/year for up to two years) from the [Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC](#) and in-kind support by FLNRORD. Several [Graduate Scholarships and Awards](#) are available at UNBC and prospective students are encouraged to apply. Candidates must 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. Candidates must be eligible to study in Canada.

Closing: Applications are due **April 25th, 2021**, while the position is open until filled.

Start date: September 2021. **Please note:** Position subject to acceptance at UNBC & Year 2 funding pending satisfactory progress.

To apply for this MA or MSc position, email your application as a single PDF file with the email subject line '*Omineca Angler Preference and Diversity Study*' to: nikolaus.gantner@unbc.ca and Philip.Mullins@unbc.ca