

MSc position – brown trout charisma

Newfoundland, Canada



“Linking fish movement with spawning ability:
telemetry, charisma, and semen quality of brown trout”

I am recruiting a new MSc student to work on the above project. For the ideal student, there may be options for it to be setup as part of a PhD program instead. Preferred start date is September 2024.

The position will be based in the new [Core Sciences Facility](#) at Memorial University, in St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada. It will be supervised by [Dr. Craig Purchase](#) (Prof of Biology: evolutionary ecology of fishes). The student will be part of a new cluster of trainees that are beginning in 2024.

Project details: Field work will use PIT tags and in-stream antennas to track movement of spawning brown trout in and out of tiny streams that flow into a large lake. Movement data will be linked to information about fish phenotype, such as body size and the degree of male secondary sexual characteristics (colour and kype), and their semen quality. The field site is the first established population of invasive brown trout in North America. Previous work at this site has indicated frequent (but unquantified) movement by trout among streams during the November spawning season. We will determine if this is random, or for example if more charismatic males guard the best spawning habitat, whereas subordinate males constantly search for opportunities with little competition.

The position is fully funded for 24 months. Memorial University has ~ the lowest tuition in all of Canada, and St. John’s is a relatively affordable city. Interested applicants should email a detailed cover letter, CV, unofficial copy of transcripts, and detailed contact information for 3 references. Review of applications will begin January 20/24 and continue until the position is filled. cfpurchase@mun.ca

