

David L Nieland

Subject: Two Masters Students Positions Available - Aquatic Invasive Species in Great Lakes Region

The Keller Lab at Loyola University Chicago has positions open for two Masters students. Funding is available for two years for each position, beginning during summer 2016. The projects are as follows:

New and spreading invasive aquatic species in the Southern Basin of Lake Michigan:

Non-native aquatic species are transported to the southern basin of Lake Michigan by many vectors, including shipping and ballast water, the pet and aquarium trades, the live food trade, and transport from the Mississippi River through the Chicago Area Waterway System. This project will involve extensive field sampling to determine which species are currently present, and habitat models will be developed to assess the risks posed for future spread. Additionally, we will use these habitat models to generalize our results to risk assessments for arrival and spread of future species.

Climate Change and Species Risks Assessments for the Great Lakes:

Risk assessments have been developed to predict which species are likely to become established in the Great Lakes in the future, and what their impacts are likely to be. This project will develop a protocol for including climate change in those risk assessments. We will work extensively with policy-makers to determine acceptable parameters (e.g., time horizons, climate change scenarios) and modeling approaches. We will apply the selected approach(es) to a set of potential invaders to develop detailed risk assessments for potential future invaders.

To apply, please send a cover letter and CV to Reuben Keller at rkeller1@luc.edu. Please indicate which project(s) you are interested in. Include names and contact details for two references. I will begin reviewing applications on March 1st. Feel free to contact me with any questions.