

M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship in Aquatic Invasive Species Biology

University of Alaska Fairbanks – Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Responsibilities – The successful applicant will be part of a multi-disciplinary team tasked with evaluation of swimming and jumping performance of invasive Northern Pike (Pike; *Esox lucius*). Expanding Pike populations pose a significant threat to salmon and their habitats in Southcentral Alaska, and have negatively affected subsistence, recreational, and commercial fisheries. Current management practices focus on suppression and eradication of Pike from lentic habitats; however, the risk of reinvasion is high owing to the complex and connected nature of waterbodies across the Southcentral Alaska landscape. The overarching goal of this work will be to take an experimental approach to quantify physiological limitations and jumping and swimming behavior of Pike in order to inform barrier design guidelines. Results of this work will directly inform management and allow eradication projects to occur in complex and well-connected habitats. The incumbent will work closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Geological Survey, along with other local, tribal, state, federal and university entities with interests in the project. As such, good communication skills are essential.

Qualifications – B.S. in fisheries biology, ecology, or closely related field. Experience conducting fisheries research in laboratory or hatchery settings and interest in invasive species ecology are preferred. GPA of 3.2+ and GRE > 60th percentile (in at least two of three areas) are desired.

Salary – \$34,500 per year, plus tuition waiver and student health benefits for 2.5 years.

Closing date – Applications will be accepted through Friday, August 30, 2019. Start date will be mid-January 2020.

Contact – Send cover letter describing your professional interests and experience, CV, copies of unofficial transcripts, GRE scores, and contact information for three references to: Dr. Jeff Falke (jfalke4@alaska.edu).

Lab website – <http://uaf-ffel.weebly.com/index.html>