M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship in Fisheries
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Location: This position will be located in Juneau, Alaska, at the Juneau Fisheries Center of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Description and responsibilities: The successful candidate will be responsible for conducting research on local ecological knowledge (LEK) of Alaskan fishers to address information needs for management and conservation of rockfishes. Fishermen’s knowledge has been used to document historical patterns in abundance, distribution, diversity, and body size of marine animals and is often the only source of information about long-term changes in coastal marine ecosystems. LEK may complement scientific data by filling spatial and temporal gaps in biological surveys that form the basis for stock assessments. The major goals of this project are to: (1) synthesize LEK of Alaskan fishers to characterize long-term trends in size, distribution, and relative abundance of rockfishes; (2) assess variation in fishers’ perceptions of ecological change; and (3) integrate LEK and scientific data to develop distribution maps and time series of relative abundance for rockfishes that can be used in assessment and management. The student will conduct in-person interviews with fishers in communities along the Gulf of Alaska, perform qualitative analysis of interview data, develop indices of abundance and map fishing locations from interviews, and analyze ecological data provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The student will be advised by Dr. Anne Beaudreau and work closely with collaborators at ADF&G and the fishing industry.

Qualifications: A Bachelor’s degree in fisheries, resource management, environmental studies, or a related field by June 2018 is required. The successful applicant will be highly motivated and creative; possess excellent writing and communication skills; have interdisciplinary training in social and natural sciences; demonstrate leadership or public engagement experience; and show an interest in using qualitative and quantitative approaches to address policy-relevant questions in fisheries. Ideally, the applicant should have experience with GIS, but it is not essential.

Funding: We offer two full years of funding (tuition, stipend, and benefits). This research will be funded by Alaska Sea Grant, contingent on availability of funding to the National Sea Grant program.

Closing Date: Applicant review will begin January 10, 2018.

Start Date: August 2018

To Apply: E-mail the following to Dr. Anne Beaudreau (abeaudreau@alaska.edu): (1) cover letter describing why you wish to pursue a MS degree, your interest in the project, and qualifications; (2) CV or resume; (3) unofficial transcripts; (4) technical writing sample; and (5) contact information for two references. Please contact Dr. Beaudreau with any questions. In your cover letter, please also report your GRE scores from the General Exam or planned date of exam.

Dr. Anne Beaudreau, Associate Professor of Fisheries
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