

Research Assistantship (M.S.)
Fisheries, Coastal Systems, and Landscape Ecology

Characterizing landscape influences on near-shore coastal systems: Implications for management

The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University, is seeking a highly motivated MS student to study coastal systems using landscape approaches. Recent research has documented degradation of near-shore coastal systems resulting from anthropogenic activities occurring along coastal shorelines and within proximate terrestrial systems. Studying these relationships over broad spatial scales is critical for understanding current condition of coastal systems and for preparing for future changes (including climate change). The student will develop a research project that considers landscape influences on coastal systems, defines an effective spatial framework for establishing linkages between inland and coastal systems, and develops sustainable management strategies to assist in conservation and adaptation. Preferable start date is January, 2014, with flexibility.

Applicants must be self-motivated, hard-working, and have strong interests in quantitative and spatial analyses. Programming language and experience in R and GIS are desirable but not necessary; however, students will be exposed to these skills as part of the position. Good written and verbal communication skills are critical, and applicants must be comfortable working in groups and individually. The ideal applicant will be intellectually curious, open-minded, and interested in collaborating with multidisciplinary researchers and managers from state and federal agencies, including the USGS. A background in hydrology, coastal ecology, landscape ecology, and/or environmental science is desired.



DEPARTMENT OF
FISHERIES AND
WILDLIFE

Michigan State University
13 Natural Resources Building
East Lansing, MI
48824-1222
517/355-4478
FAX: 517/432-1699

Position includes a monthly stipend of approximately \$1700 per month, health benefits, and a full tuition waver.

For more information, please contact both Dr. Dana Infante (infanted@msu.edu) and Dr. Yin-Phan Tsang (tsangyp@msu.edu). To apply, submit the following by 12/1/2013:

1. A cover letter describing background, current research interests, quantitative skills, and post-degree goals.
2. A resume or curriculum vitae (including GPA and GRE scores).
3. Academic transcripts.
4. Names of 2 references with contact information.
5. A 1-page writing sample.

Dr. Dana Infante
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Michigan State University
480 Wilson Road
East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1222