

Michigan State University (MSU) is pleased to announce the creation of the Robin L. Welcomme Fellow for the Promotion of Responsible Inland Fisheries. The Robin L. Welcomme Fellow is awarded to senior or mid-career professionals working on the responsible use of inland fishery resources and the ecosystems that support them. In general, the position of the Fellow will promote the ideals outlined in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/v9878e/v9878e00.htm>).

The Fellow's programme considers inland fisheries in a very broad sense and can include topics such as: freshwater fish as nutrition, fishery resource assessment and monitoring, climate change, ecosystem services, modelling, habitat rehabilitation, water management, valuation of freshwater fisheries and ecosystems, recreational fisheries, and integrated watershed management.

The position is specifically designed for senior professionals in order to provide guidance and mentoring to students and younger professionals at institutions such as MSU and FAO. In addition, the Robin L. Welcomme Fellow will be expected to formulate collaborative activities between MSU faculty and students with allied global partners with an emphasis on working closely with colleagues from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of FAO. Collaboration could be in the form of inter alia, project development, publications, development of or refining fishery models, organizing and convening technical fora on inland fisheries, or developing and delivering courses on inland fisheries.



Robin L. Welcomme

Robin Welcomme was the Chief of the Inland Water Resources and Aquaculture Service at FAO in Rome, Italy and retired from FAO in 1998. Before coming to Rome, Robin worked extensively on the inland fisheries of the rivers, lakes, and floodplains of Africa. His early work on river fisheries has become a standard reference for researchers and resource managers working on sustainable fisheries in the world's rivers. For a more complete history, see <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/w7611e/W7611e27.htm>.

Robin's dedication to inland fisheries is reflected in his extensive publication record and the numerous professional colleagues he has made around the world. However, in addition to his technical abilities, Robin was an artist, gardener, thespian, avid reader, and humorist. These qualities made him an excellent colleague and mentor in the field of inland fisheries development and management. Michigan State University seeks to honor Robin's vision and dedication to global inland fisheries and will be recruiting similar Fellows to participate in this prominent post.

The Robin L. Welcomme Fellow

The position of Robin L. Welcomme Fellow will be awarded for 6 months with the possibility of renewal for an additional 6 months depending on funding and performance. Different periods of time can be considered on a case-by-case basis. Fellows are expected to provide brief quarterly updates on their progress. The position includes a small stipend and office space in the Fisheries and Wildlife Department and the Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability of MSU if required. Travel and other support costs will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Application process

Interested candidates should send a curriculum vitae and cover letter to Drs William W. Taylor (taylorw@msu.edu) and Devin M. Bartley (devinmichaelbartley@gmail.com) stating what research or development activities are planned and how inland fisheries and the people that depend on them would be enhanced by these activities. Additionally, the cover letter should state how involvement would add value to the work of MSU and FAO. The application should also include a list and location of proposed activities to be undertaken and any co-financing that will be available.

Selection process

Candidates will be selected by an Advisory Committee (see below). Consideration will be given to gender and geographic balance of Fellows as well as to the technical merits of the candidate and proposed activities. Women and fishery scientists from developing countries are encouraged to apply.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is responsible for overseeing the programme, for selecting the Fellows and for monitoring their progress. The committee is composed of:

Chair: Devin M. Bartley, Ph.D. – Retired Senior Fishery Officer, FAO and first Robin Welcomme Fellow, Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability, MSU.

Jennifer Carducci – Administrative Assistant, Fisheries and Wildlife Department, MSU.

Vice Chair: William W. Taylor, Ph.D. – University Distinguished Professor, Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability, Fisheries and Wildlife Department, MSU.

Representatives from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Office of the Provost, Office of the Dean of International Studies and Programs, and other MSU partners as appropriate will also be on the committee.