Location: Quantitative Fisheries Center
Michigan State University
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
East Lansing, MI 48824

Qualifications: We have immediate openings in the Quantitative Fisheries Center for PhD students and can accommodate those interested in starting summer or fall 2020. Successful applicant will have background/aptitude/interest in population dynamics, mathematical modeling of fish populations and communities, statistics and application of modeling results to fisheries management, and / or decision making for natural resources management. Positions require the ability to communicate in writing and verbally with a variety of agencies and collaborators. Bachelor's or Master's (preferred) degree in related field with competitive GPA and GRE scores.

Responsibilities: Selected students will be supported for up to five years on a research assistantship and hourly pay funded through research grants and support from QFC partners. The student will develop a PhD research project (ideally related to RA duties, but there is substantial flexibility for innovation), take relevant course work, and satisfy other requirements of graduate studies. RA duties will include support of a range of consulting, research, and online course development projects. Examples include development of assessment and simulation models for Lake Huron prey fishes, evaluation of assessment models used for lake trout and lake whitefish, technical support for a stakeholder panel evaluating and recommending fishery management strategies for percids in Lake Erie, assistance in implementing and updating model-based data summaries used to manage the Lake Michigan salmonine community, and assistance in development of course materials for online non-credit classes in quantitative fisheries for working professionals. Duties will include data analysis and modeling, report writing, presentations, and consultation with agency and academic partners.

Stipend and Benefits: The starting monthly stipend will be $2060, for a 12 month position. Work for paid duties is expected to be 20 hours per week, but students typically work at least an additional 20 hours per week on course work, PhD research, and other educational tasks.

Applying: To express interest please send a copy of your CV or resume, a letter of interest describing your qualifications for the position and how it fits your career goals, names and contacts of at least three references, and transcripts and GRE test reports (unofficial copies are ok initially, formal application will require these sent directly from the institutions). Send materials to bence@msu.edu. Potential PhD advisors include Jim Bence, Travis Brenden, and Kelly Robinson. For information about the Quantitative Fisheries Center: https://www.canr.msu.edu/qfc/