MSc or PhD Position: Thermal Physiology & Overwintering Strategies of Fishes

The Speers-Roesch Lab in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John (UNBSJ) is seeking a motivated MSc or PhD student to carry out research on the thermal physiology and overwintering strategies of marine and freshwater fishes. The position is available to start September 2017, but the start date is flexible.

Low temperatures and scarce food in winter are key bottlenecks on the persistence of fish populations at poleward latitudes, but our understanding of winter responses of fishes remains poor. Specific projects are flexible, but could involve investigating the mechanisms and significance of winter dormancy in fishes, in order to better understand physiological constraints on cold adaptation and the geographic limits of ectotherms. In our group, we use whole-animal, physiological, and biochemical techniques to understand how physiological responses facilitate or constrain the function, performance, and persistence of animals in challenging environments.

Qualified applicants will have a BSc degree (and a MSc degree or equivalent for PhD applicants) by time of appointment, demonstrate evidence of high research potential, have a solid work ethic, and have strong interpersonal and communication skills. Previous experience with physiological research and working with fishes are assets, particularly for a PhD position.

A full stipend is guaranteed. Students with external scholarships will receive a salary top-up. Opportunities exist for local and international field work. New Brunswick has a diverse range of marine, estuarine, and freshwater habitats, making it an ideal location to study aquatic ecophysiology. Connections with the Canadian Rivers Institute and the Huntsman Marine Sciences Centre enhance research possibilities. The Department of Biological Sciences at UNBSJ is a collegial and research-intensive group with a particular strength in marine biology. Saint John is a vibrant port city with a historical core, great nightlife and restaurants, and access to wilderness and the ocean on its doorstep.

To apply, please e-mail the following to Dr. Ben Speers-Roesch (bspeersr@unb.ca): 1) a current CV; 2) unofficial copies of your academic transcripts; 3) the names and contact information for at least two references; and 4) a brief description in your e-mail of your background and interests. Preference will be given to applications received by May 31, 2017. For more information, please visit: www.bsrlab.com