MSc or PhD Position: Thermal Biology & Overwintering Strategies of Sturgeons

We are seeking a motivated MSc or PhD student to carry out laboratory-based research on the overwintering behavior and physiology of sturgeons. The position is available to start September 2018, but the start date is flexible. The student will be co-supervised by Dr. Ben Speers-Roesch and Dr. James Kieffer at the Department of Biological Sciences, University of New Brunswick, Saint John (UNB Saint John).

Projects are flexible, but could involve investigating the physiological and behavioural responses that underlie the divergent overwintering strategies of juvenile Atlantic sturgeon and shortnose sturgeon (migration versus tolerance). In our labs, we use whole-animal, physiological, and biochemical approaches 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 (MSc degree preferable 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.

A full stipend is guaranteed. Students with external scholarships will receive a salary top-up. Opportunities exist for local and international 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 UNB Saint John is a collegial and research-intensive group with a particular strength in marine biology. Saint John is a vibrant port city featuring a historical core with nightlife and restaurants, and easy access to wilderness and the ocean.

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 March 31, 2018. For more information, please contact us or visit: Dr. Ben Speers-Roesch Lab: www.bsrlab.com and Dr. Jim Kieffer’s lab: http://shortnose.weebly.com/