Giancarlo Coppola

Spring 2017 Semester Report

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| Class | Day of Week | Time |
| Statistical Methods | M W F | 11:00-11:50 |
| M | 1:00-2:50 |
| Adv. Fishery Science | T R | 8:00-9:15 |
| T | 1:00-4:50 |
| Nat. Res. Con. Dec. | W | 3:30-5:00 |
| F | 8:00-9:30 |

**Course Schedule**

**Reflection**

Although this is my first report, I will reflect upon last semester. Fall, 2016, was an intense adjustment period to new surroundings and a productive first semester. Highlighted accomplishments include:

* Collected control data in Enid Lake’s Billy’s Creek embayment.
* Flagged out the treatment plot sites within the 74-76 m contour.
* Coordinated with USACE rangers to disk and seed the treatment embayment at Enid Lake.
* Planted and maintained 32 potted plants to serve as replicates for degradation analyses at the MSU Forest & Wildlife Research Center.
* Collected the first two months of growth assessment data.
* Completed the course: Advanced Fisheries Management.
* Worked with my advisors to fine tune several drafts of my research proposal.
* Defended my research proposal.

**Objectives for Spring 2017**

1. Finish my research proposal (deadline: end of May, 2017).
2. Plan and assemble the submergence tank in preparation for simulated inundation of potted plants (March 2017).
3. Begin degradation observations following simulated inundation every 2 weeks.
4. Collect remaining months of growth data until flooding cycle.
5. Prepare treatment plots at Enid Lake for flooding cycle (March, 2017):

* Install marker buoys either in corners or one in the center of all plots.
* Retrieve flags from corners of plots.
* Potentially set up time-lapse camera.

1. Roughly outline the spring fish sampling schedule to determine if a technician is required (February 2017).

**Program Needs**

*Data Analysis*

Although I still have some uncertainties on what my data analyses will consist of and how to do them I am confident that studying under Dr. Miranda in Advanced Fisheries Science this semester will aid in my understanding. I would like to hold off on asking for tutorials until after this semester to see where I need the most help and where to focus my attention.

*Technician Help*

We may need a technician if the plots are inundated during the semester and we cannot round up enough volunteer help for electrofishing. I hope to have a definite idea by the end of February.

**Meetings**

Feb 3-5 Poster Presentation, Southern Division AFS Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK,

Feb 22-24 Poster Presentation, Mississippi-Alabama Joint Chapter AFS Meeting, Biloxi, MS

**5 Year Forecast**

I hope to acquire a field intensive position for a state/federal agency. I do not know the exact position title I am searching for, but some that interest me are: conservation biologist/ restoration biologist/ fisheries biologist/ aquatic ecologist. What I hope to do:

* Work in lotic cold water systems or estuaries in the northeast.
* Be a part of multiple projects that monitor various components of aquatic ecosystems.
* Perform fishery and aquatic investigations to monitor and conserve T&E species.
* Work with stakeholders and agencies to restore or improve riparian/littoral zone habitat and wetlands.
* Have a position that fosters opportunities for public outreach and education.