**Class Schedule:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adv. Fisheries Science | T/Th | 8:00-9:15 |
| Adv. Fisheries Science Lab | T | 1:00-4:50 |
| Stats 8114 | M/W/F | 11:00-11:50 |
| Stats 8114 Lab | M | 1:00-2:50 |
| Natural Resource SDM | W | 3:30-5:00 |
| Natural Resource SDM | F | 8:00-9:30 |

**Sampling Schedule:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday | Meghan offloading between class |
| Tuesday | None |
| Wednesday | None |
| Thursday | Adult sampling and egg collectors |
| Friday | Drift netting after 12:00 |
| Saturday | Offloading and misc. field work |

**Semester Update:**

* Meghan and Ashley have been tasked with most of the receiver offloading along Oktoc once monthly. So far, we are up to date with all of our sampling and offloading and the data is being formatted and added to the database. They will also be processing the drift net samples in the lab each week.
  + I also plan to schedule a day to work on trailering and driving boats, backing trailers, etc.
* I am still working on standardizing my workflow and organizational protocols for both my field sampling and data management. I have been more vigilant about importing data promptly, backup folders multiple places, and quality checking the database.
* I think working on the axillary information paper will most likely have to be pushed back until the semester is finished. I hope to do the majority of the analysis over the summer but if I find the time, I would like to start putting together an outline and format citations that will be used.
* My goal is to be able to complete as much thesis writing as possible before Christmas break 2017. This will require the majority of the analyses to be in place over the summer if possible however, this will likely have to a flexible goal.

**Semester Objectives:**

* ~~Get all data organized and inserted into Access database (tagging & catch, temp logger, stage logger, receiver detection, receiver metadata, drift net data, egg collectors, operational data)~~
* Add receivers along Oktoc Creek and the Noxubee River
* ~~Add stage logger to Bluff Lake~~
* Begin analyzing telemetry detection data
* Spend more time developing a working knowledge of arguments in R and SAS to be more independent in analyzing data, making maps, etc
* ~~Task Meghan with data offloading, monthly~~
* Continue to work on my communication skills and responsibilities in a timely manner
* ~~Develop a weekly sampling schedule for distribution to FWS, advisors, Meghan, and volunteers~~
* Re-organize designated lab and boat barn areas
* Create a photo library of surgery scars organized by individual (maybe occasion?)
* Begin writing portions of thesis if possible
* ~~Begin working on conditional capture probability publication with Mike~~

**Actional Program Needs:**

* ~~Hire a technician to coordinate with Meghan and myself for weekly field sampling duties such as receiver and logger offloads, checking drift nets, and inspecting egg collectors~~
* ~~Send Smith-Root backpack electrofisher for repair?~~
* Order a new 5 or 6 in gill net??
* Meet with FWS staff to discuss April flow release plans, possibility of potential Paddlefish translocations, and Noxubee River gill net locations for last 10 acoustic tags.

**Presentations and Meetings:**

* **~~Southern Division American Fisheries Society~~**~~, Oklahoma City OK~~**~~:~~** ~~2/2/2017 through 2/5/2017~~
* **~~Mississippi American Fisheries Society Chapter Meeting~~**~~, Biloxi MS: 2/22/2017 through 2/23/2017~~
* **National American Fisheries Society Meeting**, Tampa FL: 8/20/2017 through 8/24/2017

**5 Year Goals:**

Overall, I am still relatively unsure of my future career direction, whether it be to continue my education through a PhD or to purse state or federal employment as a fisheries biologist. At this moment, I am leaning towards agency employment with preference towards USFWS. However, if a desirable PhD position becomes available that I feel would be a better option, I am not be opposed. I hope to have full time employment immediately following (or within 6 months) graduation from Mississippi State.

I think I would most enjoy continuing my work with primitive fishes or small stream ecology but ultimately, I will not be overly selective at the species or habitat level when considering submitting job applications.

I hope to have my Master’s thesis chapters published and pursuing other publishable research projects either through a state or federal agency or PhD program.

Related to my 5 year career goals, if given the option I would prefer to seek employment in the northeast Tennessee, southwest Virginia, or northwest North Carolina region.