**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 |

**Reflection:**

* Although this is the first semester report, since last semester I have spent more time trying to develop my workflow and organizational routines by attempting to standardize folders (e.g. archive, tables, figures, data) however this is still a work in progress. Additionally, I have been updating the database more frequently and making updated copies available on the Google Drive. I have developed a safer system for backing up both hard copies and digital copies of data.
* I have been working on delegating more project tasks to Meghan such as offloading receivers independently, operating the boat, driving large vehicles, and backing boat trailers. She has also held additional responsibilities in Paddlefish processing, talking with the public about project operations, and mentoring numerous volunteers.
* I have been allotting time to prepare for upcoming presentations, creating figures, and organizing data.

**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??

**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.