

## Vaskar Nepal, PhD

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### Education

Ph.D., Department of Fisheries, Virginia Institute of Marine Science	2020
M.S., Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Illinois University	2014
B.S., Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Illinois University	2011
B.Sc., Amrit Campus, Tribhuvan University, Nepal	2009

### Experience

Post-doctoral research associate, VIMS	2020-Present
Graduate Assistant, Eastern Illinois University	2012-2014
Research Assistant, Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology Lab, Eastern Illinois University	2010-2011
Intern, Charleston Waste Water Treatment Plant	2011
Intern, Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Illinois University	2011

### Peer-reviewed Publications (N = 13)

**Nepal, V.,** and M.C. Fabrizio. 2021. Reproductive characteristics differ in two invasive populations of blue catfish. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*. DOI: 10.1002/nafm.10611

Fabrizio, M.C., **V. Nepal,** and T.D. Tuckey. 2021. Invasive blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay region: a case study of competing management objectives. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*. DOI: 10.1002/nafm.10552

**Nepal, V.,** M. C. Fabrizio, and R. W. Brill. 2021. Effects of food limitation on growth, body condition and metabolic rates of non-native blue catfish. *Conservation Physiology* 9(coaa129).

**Nepal, V.,** and M. C. Fabrizio. 2020. Sublethal effects of salinity and temperature on non-native blue catfish: Implications for establishment in Atlantic slope drainages. *PLOS ONE* 15(12):e0244392.

**Nepal, V.,** M. C. Fabrizio, and W. J. Connelly. 2020. Phenotypic plasticity in life-history characteristics of invasive blue catfish, *Ictalurus furcatus*. *Fisheries Research*. 230:105650

**Nepal, V.,** and M.C. Fabrizio. 2020. Density-dependence mediates the effects of temperature on growth of juvenile blue catfish in nonnative habitats. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 149(1):108-120

**Nepal, V.,** and M.C. Fabrizio. 2019. High salinity tolerance of invasive blue catfish suggests potential for further range expansion in the Chesapeake Bay region. *PLOS ONE* 14(11): e0224770

Thornton J.L., **V. Nepal,** L.D. Frankland, C.R. Jansen, J. Hirst, and R.E. Colombo. 2019. Monitoring demographics of a commercially exploited population of shovelnose sturgeon in the Wabash River, Illinois/Indiana, USA. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology* 35(1):360-369

Pant, M., **V. Nepal,** J.L. West, and R.E. Colombo. 2019. Seasonal differences in diversity of

macroinvertebrate and fish taxa in a Midwestern stream. *River Research and Applications* 35(6):692-701

Favata, C.A., A. Maia, M. Pant, **V. Nepal**, and R.E. Colombo. 2018. Fish assemblage change following the structural restoration of a degraded stream. *River Research and Applications* 34(8):927-936

Huynh, Q.C., J. Beckensteiner, L.M. Carleton, B.M. Marcek, **V. Nepal**, C.D. Peterson, M.A. Wood, and J.M. Hoenig. 2018. Comparative performance of three length-based mortality estimators. *Marine and Coastal Fisheries* 10(3):298-313

**Nepal KC, V.**, M. Pant, C.R. Jansen, and R.E. Colombo. 2016. Seasonal patterns in diet composition of adult shovelnose sturgeon in a free-flowing river. *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* 31(3):451-461

**Nepal KC, V.**, R.E. Colombo, and L.D. Frankland. 2015. Demographics of shovelnose sturgeon in the Lower Wabash River, Illinois. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 35(4):835–844.

### Technical Papers (N = 3)

Pant, M., **V. Nepal KC**, and P. Aryal. 2011. *Zoology: A Complete TU Solution for B.Sc. II Year*. Highland Publications, Kathmandu, Nepal.

**V. Nepal KC**, and M. Pant. 2010. *Biostatistics: A Complete TU Solution for B. Sc. III Year*. Highland Publications, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Pant, M., and **V. Nepal KC**. 2010. *Zoology: A Complete TU Solution for B.Sc. I Year*. Highland Publications, Kathmandu, Nepal.

### Invited Presentations (N = 3)

Fabrizio, M.C., T.D. Tuckey and **V. Nepal**. 2019. Fisheries for the future: A case history of the striped bass fishery in the Chesapeake Bay. Zoological Society of Pokhara, Nepal.

**Nepal V.** and M. Fabrizio. 2017. Salinity tolerance of invasive blue catfish. Invasive Catfishes Symposium, Rice Rivers Center, Charles City, VA.

Fabrizio, M. C., T. D. Tuckey, and **V. Nepal**. 2017. Putting the genie back in the bottle: a case study of invasive blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay region. Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Tampa, FL.

### Presentations (N = 24)

**Nepal, V.**, M.C. Fabrizio, R. Lavaud, and J. van der Meer. 2021. Full life-cycle bioenergetics of invasive blue catfish using Dynamic Energy Budgets. 151<sup>st</sup> Annual meeting of AFS, Baltimore, MD.

**Nepal, V.** 2020. Trash or treasure? blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay. 2020 Virginia Sea Grant Graduate Symposium. Richmond, VA. **(Winner of the Best Student Presentation Award-Judges' Choice Award)**

**Nepal, V.**, and M.C. Fabrizio. 2020. Phenotypic differences in reproductive biology between two invasive populations of blue catfish. Third International Catfish Symposium, Little Rock, AR.

Fabrizio, M.C., **V. Nepal**, and T.D. Tuckey. 2020. Putting the genie back in the bottle: a case study of invasive Blue Catfish in the Chesapeake Bay region. Third International Catfish Symposium, Little Rock, AR.

**Nepal, V.**, and M.C. Fabrizio. 2019. Sublethal effects of salinity and temperature on invasive blue catfish. 149<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of AFS, Reno, NV.

- Nepal, V.,** M.C. Fabrizio and R.W. Brill. 2019. Responses of invasive blue catfish to variation in food resources. 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter of AFS, Salisbury, MD. **(Winner of the Best Student Presentation Award)**
- Nepal, V.,** and M.C. Fabrizio. 2019. Invasive blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay region: organismal biology informs population-level responses. Annual meeting of the Southern Division of AFS, Galveston Island, TX.
- Nepal, V.,** M.C. Fabrizio and R.W. Brill. 2018. Responses of invasive blue catfish to variation in food resources. 148<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of AFS, Atlantic City, NJ.
- Nepal, V.,** M.C. Fabrizio, and T.D. Tuckey. 2018. Invasive blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay: status and outlook. Annual meeting of the Southern Division of AFS, San Juan, PR.
- Nepal, V.,** and M.C. Fabrizio. 2018. Salinity tolerance of invasive blue catfish: Implications for dispersal in the Chesapeake Bay region. 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter of AFS, Morehead City, NC. **(Winner of the Best Student Presentation Award)**
- Thornton, J.L., L.F. Frankland, J. Hirst, C. Jansen, **V. Nepal** and R.E. Colombo. 2017. Reproductive ecology of shovelnose sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus*) in the Wabash River. 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of AFS, Tampa, FL.
- Nepal KC, V.** and M.C. Fabrizio. 2017. Salinity tolerance of invasive blue catfish and implications for dispersal in the Chesapeake Bay region. 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of AFS, Tampa, FL.
- Nepal KC, V.,** and M. C. Fabrizio. 2016. Spatio-temporal variability in size of age-0 blue catfish in Chesapeake Bay subestuaries. 146<sup>th</sup> AFS Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.
- Nepal KC, V.,** and M.C. Fabrizio. 2016. Spatial and temporal variability in size of young-of-year blue catfish in Chesapeake Bay subestuaries. 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Tidewater Chapter of AFS, Annapolis, MD. **(Winner of the Best Student Presentation Award, second position)**
- Moody-Carpenter, C. J., **V. Nepal KC,** L. D Frankland and R. E. Colombo. 2016. Comparison of catfish growth in two reaches of the Lower Wabash River. 77<sup>th</sup> Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Lincoln, NE. Poster.
- Nepal KC, V.,** M. Pant, C.R. Jansen and R.E. Colombo. 2014. Seasonal patterns in the diet composition of adult shovelnose sturgeon in lower Wabash River. 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter of AFS, Bloomington, IL. Poster.
- Pant, M., **V. Nepal KC,** J. L. West, T. Thomas, and R. E. Colombo. 2014. Responses in fish community structure to restoration of Kickapoo Creek. 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Illinois American Fisheries Society, Bloomington, IL.
- Pant, M., **V. Nepal KC,** D. W. Petry, J. R. Laursen and R. E. Colombo. 2014. Effects of artificial riffles on macroinvertebrate assemblages in Kickapoo Creek. 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Illinois American Fisheries Society, Bloomington, IL. Poster.
- Nepal KC, V.,** L. D. Frankland, and R. E. Colombo. 2014. Population characteristics of shovelnose sturgeon in lower Wabash River, Illinois. 74<sup>th</sup> Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.
- Pant M., **V. Nepal KC,** J. L. West, T. Thomas, and R. E. Colombo. 2014. Habitat restoration leads to increase in fish diversity and relative density in a small Midwestern stream. Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

- Nepal KC, V.,** L. D. Frankland, and R. E. Colombo. 2013. Population characteristics of the commercially exploited population of shovelnose sturgeon in the lower Wabash River, Illinois. 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Little Rock, AR.
- Pant M., **V. Nepal KC,** J. L. West, T. Thomas, and R. E. Colombo. 2013. Impacts of restoration on fishes, macroinvertebrates and physical habitat at Kickapoo Creek, Charleston IL. 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Little Rock, AR.
- Nepal KC, V.,** L.D. Frankland, and R.E. Colombo. 2013. Demographics of a commercially exploited population of shovelnose sturgeon in the lower Wabash River, Illinois. 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter of AFS, Rend Lake, IL. **(Winner of the Lewis L. Osborne Best Student Presentation Award)**
- Nepal KC, V.,** L. D. Frankland, and R. E. Colombo. 2012. Demographics of the commercially exploited shovelnose sturgeon population in the Wabash River, Illinois. 142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, St. Paul, MN. Poster.

### **Selected Grants, Awards and Honors (Total = \$115,050)**

International Student Opportunity Scholarship, W&M	2020, 2018
Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Scholarship, Tidewater Chapter of AFS (Regional)	2020
Southern Association of Marine Laboratories Student Support Award (Regional)	2019
Cake Family Fellowship, VIMS	2019
Catfish Management Technical Committee Award of AFS (Regional)	2019
Student Travel Award, Equal Opportunities Section of AFS (National)	2018
Policy Travel Award, Potomac Chapter of AFS (Regional)	2018, 2016
VIMS Dean's Fellowship	2018, 2017
John E. Skinner Memorial Award, AFS (National)	2017
Virginia Sea Grant Graduate Research Fellowship (State)	2017
Virginia Sea Grant Project Development Fund (State)	2017
VIMS Student Research Grant	2015
VIMS Foundation Fellowship, VIMS	2014-2015
Distinguished Graduate Thesis in College of Science, EIU	2014
Hammand Scholar, EIU	2014
Distinguished Graduate Student for Department of Biological Sciences, EIU	2014
Graduate Student Investigator Award, EIU	2014
Research/Creative Activity Grant, EIU	2014, 2013
Lewis L. Osborne Student Paper Award, ILAFS (State)	2013
Larimore Student Research Grant, ILAFS (State)	2013
Williams Travel Grant, EIU	2013
North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society (NASPS) Travel Award (National)	2012
Eulalee Anderson Student Scholarship Award, EIU	2012
Outstanding International Student Award, EIU	2011

### **Teaching Experience**

**Lead Instructor**

MSCI 398: Biological Invasions in Coastal Ecosystems (William & Mary)	2019
Middle school science teacher, Holy Garden High School, Nepal	2009-2010
Grade school science teacher, Children Herald Academy, Nepal	2007-2008

**Guest Lecturer**

MSCI 669: Linear Models in Ecology (Virginia Institute of Marine Science)	2021, 2019
1. Logistic regression	
2. Generalized Linear Models for count data	
MSCI 529: Fish Physiology (Virginia Institute of Marine Science)	2021
1. Bioenergetics modeling	
MSCI 561: Statistics and Graphics in R (Virginia Institute of Marine Science)	2014
1. Data manipulation using reshape2 and plyr	

**Student Advising**

**Masters students:** Jessica Thornton (Eastern Illinois University)

**Undergraduate students:** Alexandra Pomroy, Ethan Dewald, Grace Breitenbach (William & Mary); Amelia Missavage, Steven Castaglia (Eastern Illinois University)

**High school students:** Braeden Thomson (Norfolk Collegiate High School)

**Selected Professional Societies Membership and Service**

Invasive Catfish Workgroup; co-chair of the research synthesis committee	2020-Present
American Fisheries Society (AFS)	2012–Present
Best student presentation, Judge panel	2021
Southern Division Representative to the Education Section of AFS	2021-Present
Hutton Scholar Application Review Committee	2020–Present
Emmeline Moore Prize Committee	2019
Skinner Memorial Travel Award Committee	2018
Newsletter editor for Potomac Chapter of AFS	2018-Present
Symposium organizer	2017, 2021
Excellence in Fisheries Education Award Committee	2016
Tidewater Chapter of AFS	2014–Present
Potomac River Chapter of AFS	2018-Present
Illinois Chapter of AFS	2012-2014

**Activities**

Secretary, Graduate Student Association, VIMS	2017-2018
President, Association of International Students, EIU	2012-2013
Webmaster and Historian, Biological Sciences Graduate Students Association, EIU	2012-2013
Webmaster, Fish and Wildlife Ecology Club, EIU	2012-2013
Secretary, Organization for Social and Environmental Concern, Nepal	2009-2010

### **Peer Review Activities**

Peer reviewer for the following journals:

Transactions of the American Fisheries Society (2)

Marine Ecology Progress Series (1)

Marine and Coastal Fisheries (1)

Sustainability (1)

Journal of Applied Ichthyology (1)

Journal of Freshwater Ecology (2)

Uttar Pradesh Journal of Zoology (3)

### **Public Outreach**

VIMS After Hours Lecture: Expedition Nepal. Co-presented with M.C. Fabrizio and T.D. Tuckey. Jan 2020  
(~50 participants)

Williamsburg Library monthly research spotlight: Blue Catfish in Chesapeake Bay: what everyone needs to  
know. Aug 2017 (~30 participants)

Organizer of Urban Fishing Program for Kids. May 2012; May 2013 and May 2014 (~ 80 participants)