



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
DELTA RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

Assistant Professor Aquatic Biologist/Limnologist



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
THAD COCHRAN NATIONAL
WARMWATER AQUACULTURE CENTER

POSITION: Assistant Professor of Aquatic Biology and Limnology

The Delta Research and Extension Center (DREC) and Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center (TCNWAC) of Mississippi State University (MSU) is seeking applications for a full time, 12 month tenure-track faculty position at the Assistant Professor rank. This person will be involved in 100% research with opportunities for distance teaching if interested. The faculty member's home department will be in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture. Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

LOCATION: This position is located in the Mississippi Delta at the Stoneville TCNWAC. A description of DREC, TCNWAC and Department can be found here: <https://drec.msstate.edu/>; <https://www.tcnwac.msstate.edu/>; <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/wildlife>

STARTING: Spring 2025

REVIEW: Begins December 1st, 2024; Open Until Filled

RESPONSIBILITIES: Mississippi State University – Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center (TCNWAC), part of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, invites applications for the position of Assistant Research Professor specializing in the areas of aquatic biology, limnology, environmental/water quality in commercial aquaculture systems at the Delta Research and Extension Center (DREC) in Stoneville. This is a 12-month tenure-track position that will have an on-campus academic affiliation with the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture (WFA). The ideal candidate should possess a robust and productive background in aquatic sciences and/or limnology with a special emphasis on water quality in managed aquaculture systems.

The successful applicant will play a pivotal role in advancing a competitive, extramurally funded research program that aligns with the expertise of our current research initiatives. Key areas of focus may include water quality management and applied ecology of channel catfish aquaculture ponds. Areas of emphasis may include management of phytoplankton community dynamics, control of environment-derived off-flavors, aeration and dissolved oxygen management, pond sediment ecology, and aquaculture effluent management. The applicant is encouraged to partner with engineering faculty to develop applied systems to improve aquaculture efficiency.

In addition to conducting innovative research, the appointed faculty member is encouraged to mentor graduate students. They are expected to take an active role in fostering collaborations with established programs at DREC and WFA. These collaborations aim to enhance ongoing projects and foster the development of new research endeavors, all contributing to the overarching mission of the Center. The successful candidate will contribute to the vibrant academic and research environment at TCNWAC, furthering the Center's commitment to excellence in aquaculture and water quality and ecology.

QUALIFICATIONS: The ideal candidate for this faculty position at MSU should have:

1. Earned a Ph.D. in aquatic sciences, aquaculture, limnology, or fisheries science with a special emphasis in water quality and ecology (all but degree's [ABDs] will be considered).
2. A background in engaging with external stakeholder groups is highly desirable.
3. Applicant must be an individual who is exceptionally organized, detail-oriented, and possesses a proven track record of impactful research within the realm of limnology/water quality, as evidenced by relevant publications.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in various laboratory and field techniques, chemistry, ecology, appropriate quantitative analysis, and application of research to management scenarios.
5. The successful candidate must exhibit a high level of collaboration and teamwork, with a documented record of securing extramural support and scholarly achievements.

Preferred qualifications include excellent written and oral communication skills, a potential to secure extramural funding, a history of publications, and a desire to mentor students. The successful candidate should be interested in establishing robust academic and research connections and be well-positioned to leverage opportunities in water quality, aquatic biology, limnology, and environmental toxicology management through collaborative efforts with various departments on and off campus, and with other organizations (USDA-ARS, other Universities, etc.).

ABOUT THE STATE, UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENT: The Southeastern U.S. hosts some of the greatest species biodiversity in North America including numerous endangered and threatened species. Mississippi is characterized by diverse terrains including lush broadleaf forests, oak savannas, prairie grasslands, temperate pine forests and delta wetlands, along with abundant waterways. These rich landscapes provide habitat for hundreds of species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Mississippi is home to 11 national wildlife refuges and 25 state parks, including the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge, Mississippi River State Park, and Pascagoula River Audubon Center. Mississippi State University is ranked as one of the top research institutions in the United States. The Carnegie Institute has designated MSU as a "R1, very high research activity" doctoral granting institution. The National Science Foundation has MSU as ranked No. 12 nationally in Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation research expenditures with more than \$109 million spent annually. The 43-member faculty within the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture leads one of the most productive research programs in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University. We are home to the Mississippi USGS Coop Unit of scientists, the Center for Human-Wildlife Conflict and the USDA Wildlife Services National Training Academy. The department has a highly collegial and interdisciplinary group of faculty, post-doctoral fellows, Research and Extension Associates that help make the department one of the premier institutions for applied wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture science in the nation. Annually, the department faculty bring in \$15-20M in extramural funding. As one of the fastest growing undergraduate programs in the region, our 320+ undergraduate students concentrate in wildlife agriculture science, human-wildlife interactions, conservation biology, wildlife veterinary medicine, conservation law enforcement, and wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture science. The department also mentors over 100 graduate students across a variety of programs, with high job placement following receipt of a graduate degree.

ABOUT THE DELTA RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER: The Delta Research and Extension Center (DREC) serves as Mississippi State University's Research and Extension arm for the Delta region of Mississippi. The DREC focuses most of its attention on research and Extension activities on cotton, rice, soybean, corn, and catfish production. Research and Extension faculty work cooperatively to solve crop and aquaculture production problems and transfer new information and technology to area producers. DREC now covers about 4,700 acres total, including approximately 200 acres of federally owned land. Row crops are grown on about 1,800 of these acres and 294 acres are catfish research ponds. DREC has a staff of more than

20 research scientists and over 100 support personnel.

ABOUT THE THAD COCHRAN NATIONAL WARMWATER AQUACULTURE CENTER: The Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center (NWAC) was established to provide solutions to the most pressing problems of the aquaculture industry through basic and applied research, Extension, and diagnostic services. The cooperative programs of the USDA ARS Warmwater Aquaculture Research Unit, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Mississippi State University Extension Service, and MSU College of Veterinary Medicine serve as the base of the U.S. catfish research and Extension programs. The NWAC facilities include 283 earthen ponds (294 acres) ranging in size from 0.1 to 9 acres, a 32,000 square foot office/laboratory building, 6,000 square foot aquaria building, 8,000 square foot nutrition laboratory, a pathogen-free holding building, genetics complex, raceways, shops, and storage buildings. There are 14 MSU and USDA scientists on staff as well as 40 support staff.

APPLY: Applications must be submitted online at <https://explore.msujobs.msstate.edu/cw/en-us/job/508023/assistant-professor> ; (Job # 508023) and should include a: 1) cover letter, 2) curriculum vitae, 3) research statement and philosophy; 4) three letters of recommendation; and 5) un-official or official transcripts for this phase of the application. Please send a duplicate package of the above material to the search chair Dr. Chuck Mischke at: cmischke@drec.msstate.edu Any questions regarding the position should be directed to the chair.

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement:

MSU is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, pregnancy, gender identity, status as a U.S. veteran, and/or any other status protected by applicable law. We always welcome nominations and applications from women, members of any minority group, and others who share our passion for building a diverse community that reflects the diversity in our student population.

What do I do if I need an accommodation?

In compliance with the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), if you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation in order to apply for a position with Mississippi State University, please contact the Department of Human Resources Management at tel: (662) 325-3713 or ada@hrm.msstate.edu.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, contact the Department of Human Resources Management at (662) 325-3713 or ada@hrm.msstate.edu. Upon request, sections of this job listing are available in large print, and readers are available to assist the visually impaired.