Paid MS assistantship to study the persistence of algal toxins in fish

We are seeking a motivated student to pursue a Masters degree at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri, USA. The successful applicant will be expected to take on a research project focused on understanding the persistence of algal toxins in fish tissue within the context of a collaborative, multi-agency project.

There has been a global increase in potentially toxic cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms (CyanoHABs) over the last several decades that may be linked to increased nutrient loading and a changing climate. CyanoHABs can produce toxins that have implications for drinking water, recreation use, and fish consumption. The objectives of this project are to assess the implications of CyanoHABs and associated toxins on fish populations with implications for human health. During CyanoHAB events, guidance is well established for recreating on the water, but is lacking for consumption of fish caught during or after a bloom. The student will work on developing a model in which we can predict the presence or absence, and concentration of algal toxins in fish tissue by examining a suite of landscape, water body, water quality, and algal variables. The project will include field work, fish tissue and laboratory analyses, as well as quantitative analysis of the data. Strong writing skills are also desired.

Preferred start date is Fall 2018 with an opportunity to start work this summer. For further information on the Water Resources Graduate Emphasis Area in the School of Natural Resources at MU, including application requirements, please visit: https://snr.missouri.edu/graduate-studies/water-resources-graduate-program/

To apply, please send: 1) cover letter outlining your background, expertise, and interests, 2) recent CV, and 3) unofficial transcripts to Dr. Rebecca North (northr@missouri.edu) or Dr. Alba Argerich (argericha@missouri.edu).

Rebecca North, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Water Quality
School of Natural Resources, University of Missouri
303L Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building, Columbia, MO, 65211-7220
Phone: 573-882-2832
https://cafnr.missouri.edu/person/rebecca-north/

Alba Argerich
Assistant Professor
School of Natural Resources
303K Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211
Phone (573) 882-1489
Google Scholar profile
https://cafnr.missouri.edu/person/alba-argerich/