M.S. and Ph.D. Assistantships Available

The National Marine Fisheries Service Recruiting, Training, and Research (RTR) Program at the University of Florida (UF) is taking applications for both M.S. and Ph.D. students. Assistantships will be available in January and August 2013. Students with strong quantitative backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Funding will be used to support projects that develop and apply innovative stock assessment, population dynamics, and modeling methods to important research questions in fisheries management, ecology, and economics. Successful applicants will develop their research projects jointly with faculty advisors and collaborating federal and state scientists. The program provides unique opportunities to conduct cutting edge science in support of marine resource management and conservation, while working closely with leading UF faculty, federal and state scientists.

We seek graduate students with strong quantitative backgrounds that includes experience and academic excellence in mathematics, statistics, and/or quantitative wildlife and/or fisheries ecology. Examples of the types of projects students would conduct for research include:

- Developing new quantitative tools used to forecast effects of harvest on fish stocks
- Simulating the fishery management process, including data collection, analysis, and management alternatives, with consideration of uncertainty in all components
- Creating a population viability analysis (PVA) to assess how reducing interactions with fisheries impacts the loggerhead sea turtles’ probability of persistence
- Evaluating how uncertainty in historical data influence the outcomes of stock assessments
- Analysis of spatial dynamics in habitat and fisher behavior with impacts to sustainability of fishery resources
- Evaluating ecological and economic implications of fishery management actions such as size limits, bag limits, and closed areas/seasons, using ecosystem modeling

Assistantships may be held with any suitable advisor in the marine resources population dynamics field at the University of Florida. Applicants should visit the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences website (http://fishweb.ifas.ufl.edu/) to identify potential advisors. Applicants are encouraged to contact potential advisors early in the process.

Preliminary applications should be sent to Jim Berkson and Mike Allen by email at Jim.Berkson@noaa.gov and msal@ufl.edu. These should include: 1) resume, 2) copy of undergraduate transcripts (unofficial accepted for initial application, 3) GRE scores, 4) statement of interest in quantitative fisheries methods, and 5) names and contact information of three references.