



GRADUATE RESEARCH IN SALMON ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

THE LAB

The Salmon Watersheds Lab (SWL) studies aquatic ecology with diverse partners to inform management and conservation, with a focus on salmon and their watersheds. We are part of the Earth to Ocean Research Group, and much of our work is part of the Aquatic Research Cooperative (ARC) Initiative.

THE PROJECTS

- 1. Effectiveness of Restoration** (MSc, start Sept 2027). This project will conduct field research and spatial analyses to assess the effectiveness of restoration techniques on fish communities in BC. Fieldwork required (snorkeling, temperature monitoring) and spatial analyses. Co-supervised with Sean Naman (DFO) as part of the ARC Institute. *Requires a bachelor's in a natural science, ideally with aquatic ecosystems experience. **Must be a permanent resident or Canadian citizen.***
- 2. Thermal Ecology of Migratory Salmon** (MSc or PhD, start May 2027). This project will examine fish communities in the Nicola River under climate change and restoration, with a focus on adult Chinook salmon thermal ecology. Research will consist of fieldwork (snorkeling, temperature monitoring, fish handling) and analyses (including of radio-telemetry data). In collaboration with DFO, the ARC Institute, and local First Nations. *Requires a bachelor's or equivalent in a natural sciences discipline.*
- 3. Spatial Analysis of Climate Resilience in Salmon Ecosystems** (PhD, start Sept 2027). This project uses big data analytics, climate modeling, and spatial analysis to examine climate risks and resilience in Pacific salmon watersheds. Desktop-based. *Requires a master's in a science discipline, ideally with climate change in aquatic systems experience, plus demonstrated experience with large datasets and spatial analysis/modeling.*

QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience leading fieldwork in challenging conditions in remote settings (Projects 1-2)
- Initiative in solving complex field logistics, and the maturity to ensure the physical and mental well-being of the field team (Projects 1-2)
- Experience managing and analyzing large datasets (spatial analysis or modeling is an asset)
- Ability to work in a collaborative team with diverse peoples

FUNDING

Funding for stipend and research is anticipated. Minimum stipend is \$31K/year for master's students and \$34K/year for doctoral students. Successful candidates are expected to apply for fellowships.

TO APPLY

Applications are due: November 9, 2026. Please email a CV and brief cover letter (both PDF) to adminjwm@sfu.ca with the subject line "Grad Student Application 2027 — [exact position name]".

- CV: relevant work and education (including GPA) and contact information for three references.
- Cover letter (max 2 pages): relevant scientific experience and skills, and why you are interested in the project.
- If interested in multiple positions, put your primary choice in the subject line and describe other interests in the cover letter.
- Only applicants advancing to the next round will be contacted.

