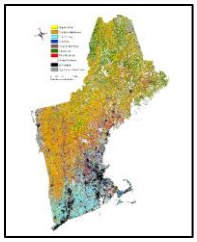
MS Assistantship: Population ecology of moose in Maine



A 2-year Masters position is available in the Morano and Kamath Labs at the University of Maine, starting in the Fall 2021 semester. We seek a motivated and enthusiastic student to examine questions related to habitat ecology and population dynamics of Maine moose (*Alces alces*). The successful applicant will work as part of a collaborative team composed of faculty and graduate students at the University of Maine, and professionals from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW). The student would be considering questions of moose habitat use and survival dynamics in the context of resource allocation, habitat selection, winter severity, winter tick dynamics and other potential epidemiological factors. This is primarily a modeling project, taking advantage of data collected by the MDIFW; field work may consist of assisting agency personnel with data collection, or collecting and processing biological samples. Results from this study aim to inform management efforts and conservation planning for moose in Maine and would be relevant to populations throughout the southern extent of their range.

The student will be a member of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology at the University of Maine, with options for pursuing a MS in Wildlife Ecology or Ecology and Environmental Sciences, co-advised by Dr. Sabrina Morano and Dr. Pauline Kamath. Support for the student will come in the form of a graduate assistantship (which also covers tuition, (50%) of health insurance), which may include a combination of both research and teaching assistantships.

The successful candidate should have a strong undergraduate academic background in wildlife, ecology, or a related field, and desire to use basic ecological theory to address current conservation challenges for large mammals. Competitive applicants will have skills/interests in GIS, statistical modeling, survival analyses, and the use of Program R for data analysis and management. In addition, a willingness to work outside in cold, wet conditions and to participate in collection of biological samples from living or dead animals is required. Successful candidates will also have demonstrated leadership and initiative at the undergraduate level, have the capacity to manage multiple competing tasks for their time (e.g., write a proposal, assisting with field work, take graduate level courses), are goal oriented and self-directed with an ability to overcome obstacles to finish tasks (in research, education, or life in general), and have an interest in collaborative research.

To Apply: (1) a cover letter describing why you are pursuing a graduate degree, how this opportunity aligns with your professional interests, and current qualifications, including relevant research experience and coursework. In addition, please highlight what you feel are your strengths and weaknesses relative to this graduate position; (2) a CV detailing relevant academic qualifications and field experiences; (3) GRE scores (if available); (4) unofficial transcripts; and (5) contact information for three references. **Please combine materials into a single PDF document** to sabrina.morano@maine.edu with the subject line "**Moose MS Position.**" All applications received before **January 18th** will receive full consideration, but will be accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Students are also welcome to participate in one of two transdisciplinary graduate programs offered at UMaine, the Enhancing Conservation Science NRT Program or the One Health and the Environment NRT Program, please see program websites for additional information and include interest in the cover letter.