John Vincent Gatto
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Education

Florida International University Miami, FL United States   **Doctorate** 12/2019
Major: Biological Sciences
Dissertation: Incorporating Early Life History and Recruitment in Analysis of Population
Dynamics of Wetland Fishes

Florida International University Miami, FL United States   **Master of Science** 12/2017
Major: Biological Sciences

University of South Carolina Columbia, SC United States   **Bachelor of Science** 12/2011
Major: Marine Science
Emphasis: Biological Oceanography

Work History

Postdoctoral Research Associate   **01/2020 – Present**
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Illinois Natural History Survey-Great Rivers Field Station   Alton, IL 62002

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:
I worked independently as part of the Science and Monitoring element of the Long Term Resource
Monitoring Program (LTRM) to assess restoration needs of fish communities in the Upper Mississippi
River System (UMRS). The Science and Monitoring Team is a large, multi-state, multidisciplinary group
which includes several federal (USGS, USACE) and state agencies within the Midwest.

Project Management and Leadership

- Led the discussion for the LTRM Fisheries component at the 2020 and 2022 UMRS All Science
  Meetings to discuss project ideas, management needs, and formulate proposals
- Served as primary author and secured funding ($93,422) to evaluate changes in the functional
  ecology of fish communities along the UMRS
- Drafted and modified budgets based on agency needs
- Provided project updates to funding agencies (USACE, USGS) annually
- Mentored and supervised fish ecologists, technicians, and graduate students on data collection,
  entry, analysis, QA/QC, and report writing

Research and Advocacy

- Analyzed LTRM data to inform water management decisions and restoration initiatives
- Developed conservation strategies and restoration initiatives with government scientists
- Submitted manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals for publication
- Represented the Illinois Natural History Survey as an expert at academic conferences

Postdoctoral Research Associate   **08/2019 – 12/2019**
Florida International University
Department of Biological Sciences   Miami, FL

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:
I managed a recently funded project by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The
funded project evaluated the ecological impacts of the DECOMP Physical Model, a large-scale

infrastructure project designed to restore water in the Florida Everglades authorized by the Water Resources Development Act.

Project Management and Leadership

- Developed a habitat conservation and restoration study to identify the consequences of phosphorus loading on the Everglades ecosystem.
- Supervised a PhD student and trained him on otolith processing techniques and the use of Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS).
- Scheduled field work for live fish collection, experimental setup, and water sample collection
- Updated funding agencies frequently on project status and recommended future projects
- Ordered supplies and equipment for field and laboratory studies

Research and Advocacy

- Conducted field work at remote locations to gather water quality data in water management areas
- Responsible for analyzing a multivariate dataset on water quality data gathered from fish otoliths to assess changes in habitat quality
- Primary author on a report to SFWMD discussing results of preliminary study
- Submitted manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals for publication
- Represented Florida International University as an expert at several academic conferences

Graduate Research Assistant   **08/2012 – 12/2019**
Florida International University
Department of Biological Sciences   Miami, FL 33199

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:
My dissertation research focused on applying fisheries modeling approaches to long-term monitoring data of fish communities in the Florida Everglades (Modified Water Deliveries Project). I used a combination of fishery science and traditional ecological theory to describe complex recruitment processes of several species of small fish across a large spatial scale.

Project Management and Leadership

- Designed projects of varying complexity under the advisement of several academic experts
- Served as primary author and secured funding from Florida International University ($16,600), the SFWMD ($9984.75), and the George Maier Fund ($3,315).
- Developed comprehensive work plans and tracked expenditures against an approved budget.
- Responsible for scheduling field work for several projects on aquatic fish populations.
- Mentored several technicians and trained them in data input/management, otolith extraction and preparation techniques, and standard operating procedures for field sampling
- Updated funding agencies on project status and completion

Research and Advocacy

- Conducted field work at remote locations to sample submerged aquatic vegetation, aquatic invertebrates, and fish species on a large spatial scale
- Analyzed long-term monitoring and hydrological data collected by the National Park Service
- Primary author of peer-reviewed publications and co-authored papers with government scientists
- Represented Florida International University as an expert at several academic conferences

Skills

Program management: leadership, graduate student and technician mentoring, scope of work, budgeting, proposal/grant writing, manuscript preparation and reviewing
Computer Programs: Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Access, and Excel), Primer-e, SAS, R, Adobe Illustrator, Netlogo
Habitat: boat electrofishing, throw trapping, dip netting, fyke netting, hoop netting
Instruments: Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS)
Population: stock-recruitment modeling, stock assessment, population modeling, fish aging techniques, age and growth modeling
Data: Quantitative experience working with large, long-term biological, hydrological, and water quality datasets
Professional Service: reviewer for scientific journals including Oecologia, Hydrobiologia, and Environmental Biology of Fishes

Recent Publications

Gatto, J. V., J. L. Kline, W. F. Loftus, and J. C. Trexler. 2021. Linking demographic transitions to population dynamics in a fluctuating environment. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*. 78(7): 797-808.

Gatto, J. V. and J. C Trexler. 2020. Speed and Directedness Predict Colonization Sequence Post-Disturbance. *Oecologia*. 193(3): 713-727.

Gatto, J. V. and J. C Trexler. 2019. Seasonality of Fish Recruitment in a Pulsed Wetland Ecosystem: Estimation and Hydrological Effects. *Environmental Biology of Fishes*. 102 (4): 595-613.

Recent Presentations

Gatto, J.V., B. S. Ickes, and J.H. Chick. Evidence of alternative trophic pathways for fish consumers in a large river system in the face of invasion. American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD. November 2021.

Gatto, J.V. and Chick, J.H. Environmentally driven shifts in fish community structure along a large regulated river. Mississippi River Research Consortium, La Crosse, WI. April 2021.

Gatto, J.V. Long-term Monitoring Reveals Controls of Fish Population Dynamics and Recruitment. South Florida Natural Resource Center Science Series, Homestead, FL. October 2020. (Invited Seminar).

References

Name	Position	Phone	E-mail
Brian Ickes*	USGS/Principal Investigator UMRR LTRM Fish component	608-385-5182	bickes@usgs.gov
Dr. Joel Trexler*	Director of the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory	305-926-8181	jtrexler@fsu.edu
Dr. John Chick*	Principal Research Scientist/Field Station Director	618-975-3918	chick@illinois.edu

*Indicates Professional Reference