GRA POSITION
Improving Participation in Fisheries Management: Stock Assessment Training for Stakeholders
Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station
Oregon State University

Duration: March, 2006 to March 2008
Sponsors: Oregon Sea Grant and Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station
Stipend: 0.30 - 0.49 FTE for 2 years ($959-1,557/month stipend, fringe/student health insurance, and tuition)
Investigators: Dr. Gil Sylvia, Professor and Superintendent, Oregon State University, Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station; Dr. David Sampson, Professor, Oregon State University, Fisheries and Wildlife and Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station; Stephen Theberge, Oregon Sea Grant, Marine Extension Agent (Fisheries)
Application Deadline: January 13, 2006

QUALIFICATIONS
• Strong interest in working on communication of fisheries science to stakeholders; strong interest in working with fisheries industry stakeholders
• Strong technical and creative writing skills preferred
• Knowledge and interest in marine fisheries management and policy
• Knowledge of stock assessment or population dynamics (equivalent of one graduate course) preferred
• Previous experience with interviewing preferred
• Ability to start no later than spring 2006 term (Early April)
• Must meet Oregon State University Graduate School requirements and be acceptable or currently enrolled as a graduate student in either the Fisheries and Wildlife – MS or PhD (College of Agricultural Sciences) or Marine Resource Management - MS (College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences) at Oregon State University.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Traditional stock assessment training builds from general biology and fishery science. International experts support use of cases as a top strategy for fisheries management training. A promising approach is the field-researched, decision-focused case method used by the top business, law, and management programs. Adopting this method will more fully engage stakeholders in discovery of fundamental principles through analysis of real data and familiar fisheries. However, few decision-focused teaching cases exist on fisheries management, and none are specific to stock assessment. This project develops two field-researched, decision-focused cases on West Coast stocks (Canary rockfish and Pacific sardine) and integrates these into an experiential training curriculum for Pacific Northwest fisheries stakeholders and managers requiring knowledge on basic principles of stock assessment.

The project involves three phases. Phase 1 is production of two high quality, stakeholder targeted, decision-focused, field-researched teaching cases on two separate U.S. West Coast stocks - Canary rockfish and Pacific sardine. This phase includes: a) Needs assessment to define baseline competencies for stock assessment curriculum; b) training of case developers; c) field research for case development; d) preparation of the two cases for training stakeholders about stock assessment. Phase 2 is a 1.5-day training workshop on PNW stock assessment delivered to PNW fisheries stakeholders and state/regional fisheries managers in need of stock assessment fundamentals (using the two cases). Phase 3 is evaluation which includes: a) participants’ self assessment of their competency and perceptions regarding stock assessment and engagement in science-based decision-making; b) project participants’ assessment of the
training process; c) external review of the teaching cases and training; and d) a best-practices guidelines for stock assessment training and use of the field-researched, decision-focused case method.

The project is expected to make a significant contribution to development of stock assessment training strategies and products identified as essential to fisheries’ management-capacity building initiatives in the Pacific Northwest (PNW), as well as other U.S. regions and other fishing nations.

GRA RESPONSIBILITIES
- Assist with conducting needs assessment—stakeholder interviews and focus group with stock assessment experts
- Participate in case writing workshop (develop expertise in case writing/teaching method)
- Assist project team case study development for two Pacific Northwest stocks (Canary Rockfish and Pacific Sardine)—co-writer, perform field research/interviews, develop and analyze stock assessment history
- Assist with stakeholder training workshop development, delivery and evaluation
- Assist with final reporting and publications
- Develop MS or PhD thesis topic in association with project (preferred)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- Marine Resource Management, College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences (see: http://www.coas.oregonstate.edu/)
- Fisheries and Wildlife, College of Agricultural Sciences (see: http://fw.oregonstate.edu/)
- OSU Graduate School: (see: http://oregonstate.edu/admissions/graduate/requirements.html)

APPLICATION SUBMISSION
If interested, please submit a letter describing your experience and interests relevant to the goals of this project, CV, and list of three references (electronic version preferred – PLEASE USE “GRA Stock Assessment Training Project” in subject header) to:

Dr. Gil Sylvia
Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station
Hatfield Marine Science Center
Oregon State University
2030 SE Marine Science Dr.
Newport, OR 97365
Fax: 1-541-867-0345
Phone: 1-541-867-0284
Email: gil.sylvia@oregonstate.edu