EFFECTIVENESS OF FISH HABITAT COMPENSATORY MEASURES IN EEYOU ISTCHEE: CREE AND SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVES

Context and objectives of the project: Several fish and fish habitat compensation projects have occurred in Eeyou Istchee (Cree territory) in recent years, mainly related to hydropower, mining and road infrastructure projects. While the objective of these compensation projects is to counterbalance fish and fish habitat loss, there is no comprehensive assessment of their RELEVANCE and EFFECTIVENESS according to Cree traditional ecological knowledge, and from a scientific perspective.

The main goals of this project are to 1) compile and analyze the available information regarding the implementation and monitoring of compensatory plans to offset fish and fish habitat loss, and to 2) evaluate how Cree involvement has contributed and could help to improve the design, implementation and monitoring of compensatory measures. The proposed project will enable the Cree communities to better preserve fish population and fish habitat, to ensure the continuity of Cree traditional activities, and to alleviate the concerns they have toward compensation measures and their follow-up. The objectives are to write a systematic review on fish compensatory programs success and on the level of Cree participation in fish offsetting plans and monitoring programs. The candidate will also lead interviews and workshops with Cree land users and experts to assess their perceptions of compensatory projects and contribute to identifying and developing conservation priorities.

Working conditions: This internship could start as soon as spring 2021 or summer 2021. A salary of $48 000 + benefits per year for two years is expected.

Supervision and collaborators: The candidate will join a multidisciplinary team. The project will be overseen by Professors Katrine Turgeon (UQO; aquatic ecology) and Hugo Asselin (UQAT; Indigenous studies) in close collaboration with the Cree Nation Government (Kelly LeBlanc; coordinator) and the Cree Trappers Association (Thomas Stevens, Special Project Coordinator).

Workplace: The candidate will join Prof. Katrine Turgeon’s lab at the Institut des Sciences de la Forêt Tempérée (ISFORT; https://isfort.uqo.ca/), a research institute affiliated with the Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO).

Experience sought: We are looking for a candidate who holds a doctorate in biological sciences, environmental sciences or social sciences. The candidate must be bilingual (English is essential to interact with the Cree communities) and must be available for fieldwork in Northern Québec.

The candidates must submit their application (motivation letter, CV and names of two references) to Dr. Turgeon by email (katrine.turgeon@uqo.ca). The evaluation of CVs will continue until a candidate is selected.