



Social ecological interactions in inland recreational fisheries

Oral Defence by PhD Candidate Jacob Ziegler

Department of Natural Resource Sciences

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Abstract

Lakes, like all ecosystems, provide benefits to people while also undergoing human modifications that represent challenges and opportunities for maintaining these benefits. I explore this idea in the context of recreational fisheries, which have high cultural and economic value in North America. Lake-rich landscapes often experience high fishing pressure and widespread development along shorelines with implications for fish populations. Both government and local management groups invest in maintaining fisheries through habitat enhancement and stocking of fish but these actions may not always improve the benefits people derive from the fishery. I present empirical and bio-economic model results to demonstrate these outcomes and discuss their implications for maintaining recreational fisheries.



About the Candidate

Jacob received his MSc in Biology from McGill University under the co-supervision of Drs. Irene Gregory-Eaves and Chris Solomon. His thesis was on aquatic food web ecology and the controls of food chain length in lakes. He is now in his fourth year of his PhD in Natural Resource Management at McGill University under the co-supervision of Drs. Chris Solomon and Elena Bennett. He has worked on lakes of Eastern Quebec, the Adirondacks in New York State, and Northern Wisconsin.