



## Great Lakes Fishery Commission

### **William Taylor Early Career Researcher Fellowship**

The William Taylor Early Career Researcher Board Fellowship provides a position on either the Board of Technical Experts ([BOTE](#)) or Sea Lamprey Research Board ([SLRB](#)) and was created in 2022 to enhance the research board's expertise and increase diversity of perspectives represented in the proposal review process. Two fellowships are available annually: one for the Fishery Research Program, and one for the Sea Lamprey Research Program. BOTE and SLRB are advisory boards to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission) that conduct an annual review of proposals submitted to the [Commission's competitive research programs](#). The fellowship includes a US \$2,000 award plus travel expenses for attendance at research board meetings.

In 2023, the fellowship was formally named the William Taylor Early Career Researcher Fellowship to commemorate Dr. Taylor's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a member of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and to honor his long-standing service as a member and chair of BOTE and a member of SLRB. Throughout his career, Dr. Taylor has made it a priority to mentor the next generation of Great Lakes fisheries scientists, promote equity for women in the field, and build strong, collaborative, and collegial relationships within the Great Lakes Fisheries network. He was a major proponent of the formation of the fellowship, and his life's work embodies its purpose to elevate the voices and advance the careers of promising early career professionals.

### **Fellowship Description**

Fellowships are one year in duration, beginning on 01 January, with an opportunity to re-apply for a second consecutive term. Fellows will participate in two, two-day research board meetings during March and September as a voting member on one of the Commission's research boards. During spring meetings, held in Ann Arbor, MI, external pre-proposals are reviewed for relevance to the Commission's Research Themes, Strategic Vision, and partner priorities. Meritorious pre-proposals are advanced by the boards to the full-proposal stage. During fall meetings, held at various locations in the Great Lakes region, full-proposals are evaluated by the boards for scientific merit and feasibility. Meritorious proposals are then recommended to the Commission for funding. Review of pre-proposals for the spring meeting usually requires approximately 10 hours of preparation, and review of proposals for the fall meeting requires approximately 20 hours of preparation. Incumbents will build career networks, learn about external research funding processes, better understand how to construct and critically evaluate research proposals, expand their scientific knowledge, and contribute positively to the Commission's research funding programs.

### **Requirements**

At the start of the fellowship, applicants must be PhD candidates (i.e., having completed



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comprehensive examinations and course requirements for their program) or post-doctoral fellows whose research is relevant and potentially impactful to Great Lakes fisheries or sea lamprey control or both.

### Selection Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated on their demonstration of the following:

1. experience and engagement in research that is strongly relevant to Great Lakes fisheries or sea lamprey control or both
2. ability to commit the time required for meaningful research board engagement
3. strong academic standing
4. effective communication skills
5. ability to think critically and evaluate research
6. likelihood of contributing a unique perspective to the board

### Application Package

A complete application will include the following:

1. Cover letter (maximum 1 page; 11 pt. font) indicating:
  - i. the research board to which the candidate is applying
  - ii. current employment status or expected completion date if in a PhD program
  - iii. alignment of candidate's research to board research themes ([BOTE](#), [SLRB](#)) and anticipated impact on Great Lakes fishery management or sea lamprey control
  - iv. commitment of time and ability to engage in board activities
  - v. expected contribution to the board, including how the candidate could expand the board's diversity of perspectives
  - vi. skills and experiences the candidate hopes to gain from the fellowship
2. Curriculum vitae
3. A letter of recommendation from the applicant's supervisor (maximum 1 page; 11 pt. font) indicating:
  - i. whether the candidate can meet the required time commitment (i.e., four days of meetings plus travel, and ~ 30-40 hours of preparation time)
  - ii. the candidate's ability to critically evaluate research and contribute to proposal review and evaluation
  - iii. the candidate's written and oral communication skills
  - iv. the candidate's ability to enhance the Commission's research board diversity of perspectives

### To Apply

The cover letter and CV should be compiled into a single PDF or Word document and uploaded to this [submission link](#).

Recommendation letters should be uploaded by the supervisor directly to the same [link](#).

**Applications are due by 15 July of each year.** Selection of fellows will occur by 01 September, with Commission approval by 15 December.



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