Assistant Research Scientist in Ecosystem Services
Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

The Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR) seeks applications for a full-time Assistant Research Scientist with expertise in quantifying the monetary and/or non-monetary value of ecosystem services in the Great Lakes. This new position is part of an ongoing ‘Blue Economy’ initiative in the Great Lakes, which strives to promote sustainable use of natural resources for economic growth and improved livelihoods while also preserving the health of Great Lakes ecosystems.

We seek the best scholar who uses empirical methods and/or modeling tools to quantify how humans value Great Lakes ecosystems and their organisms, how people perceive the costs of environmental degradation around the Great Lakes, and how they view the benefits of ongoing efforts to restore habitats and increase the resiliency of Great Lakes ecosystems. Any topical areas of expertise will be considered; however, examples of areas of particular interest include impact valuation of nuisance species (e.g., alien invasive species, harmful algal blooms), changing coastlines (e.g., water level fluctuations, development, coastal resilience), lake management plans (e.g., water quantity regulation and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement), and ecosystem restoration (e.g., EPA Areas of Concern, habitat restoration).

The successful candidate will be appointed in the University of Michigan’s School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS), and will join a team of five CIGLR Research Scientists and 30 research support staff who are housed at NOAA’s Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab (GLERL) in Ann Arbor. CIGLR Research Scientists work with government scientists from NOAA on projects that contribute to sustainable management of the Great Lakes.

In addition to interactions with NOAA-GLERL, CIGLR Research Scientists are part of the faculty body of SEAS, where they have access to additional research facilities and resources such as the M.S. and Ph.D. graduate programs.

The University of Michigan is consistently ranked among the top American public research universities, and Ann Arbor is routinely ranked as one of the best places to live in the U.S. due to its affordability, natural beauty, preservation of wooded areas, vibrant arts program, and lively downtown. This position represents a great opportunity for those focused on aquatic research and management to join a premiere academic institution.

Qualifications. The position requires a Ph.D. in a relevant field of social science (e.g., environmental or ecological economics, environmental anthropology, geography, political science, conservation psychology, environmental sociology, etc.), evidence of solid empirical and/or modeling skills, a strong record of scholarly publication, and activities demonstrating a trajectory towards national recognition as an expert in the field. Importantly, we seek candidates who have a demonstrated history of working on multi-disciplinary teams to solve real-world problems in the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems and coastal communities. Therefore, candidates must show evidence of collaboration across disciplinary boundaries to develop implementable solutions to sustainability challenges.

Compensation. The position offers a highly competitive salary and full benefits at the University of Michigan. The position comes with a guarantee of full-funding for an initial appointment of three years. After three years, CIGLR Research Scientists generally support 90% of their salaries from collaborative projects with government scientists at NOAA-GLERL, which includes funds from non-competitive internal grants, and from competitive grant proposals.

To apply. Applicants should collate the following items into a single PDF: (1) a cover letter, (2) a curriculum vitae, (3) a research statement, (4) contact information for three references, and (5) two representative publications. To submit an application, visit: https://careers.umich.edu/job_detail/182370/assistant_research_scientist_in_ecosystem_services_cooperative_institute_for_great_lakes_research The deadline for applications is January 31, 2020.

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The University of Michigan is a Non-Discriminatory/ Affirmative Action Employer.
Individuals from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply.