

# Kristopher J. Stahr

Oklahoma State University  
Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management  
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## EDUCATION

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Master of Science – 2014 (expected).

**Natural Resource Ecology and Management**  
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK

Degree option: Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology

Thesis title: The role of aquatic vegetation in mediating juvenile largemouth bass survival

Advisor: Dr. Daniel E. Shoup

GPA: Cumulative: 4.00/4.00

Bachelor of Science – 2012.

**Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences (*cum laude*)**  
South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

GPA: Cumulative: 3.70/4.00

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Graduate Research Assistant

Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK  
Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management

May 2012 to Present:

- 1) Evaluating the effectiveness of American water willow to reduce predation risk of juvenile largemouth bass.
- 2) Examining the effect of aquatic vegetation stem density on foraging efficiency of pre-piscivorous largemouth bass.
- 3) Determining macroinvertebrate community differences between American water willow (*Justicia americana*) and Southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*).
- 4) Sampling of fishes using a variety of sampling gears including seines, hoop nets, modified-fyke nets, and boat and backpack electrofishing.
- 5) Caring of fishes in a laboratory setting; duties included fish disease treatment, feeding of fishes and fish transport.
- 6) Assisted fellow graduate student with spawning of largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), bluegills (*Lepomis macrochirus*) and fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*) within ponds.
- 7) Assisted fellow graduate student with flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) research; duties included low-pulse boat electrofishing, otolith, pectoral spine, and gonad removal.

**Fisheries Research Technician**

South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD  
Department of Natural Resource Management

May 2010 to May 2011, August 2011 to May 2012:

- 1) Assisted graduate research investigating bluegill and yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) recruitment bottlenecks within Nebraska Sandhill lakes.
- 2) Collected and processed zooplankton, benthic macroinvertebrate and water quality samples in the field and laboratory, respectively.
- 3) Sampled larval, juvenile and adult fishes using a variety of sampling gears including boat electrofishing, modified-fyke nets, cloverleaf traps and larval fish trawls.
- 4) Sampled and identified aquatic vegetation.
- 5) Removed and aged larval, juvenile and adult otoliths.
- 6) Trained fellow technicians and graduate students on removal and aging of otoliths.
- 7) Assisted graduate student with sampling of fishes in northeastern South Dakota lakes with night-time boat electrofishing and gill netting.
- 8) Assisted U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with night-time boat electrofishing for fishes in Nebraska Sandhill lakes.

**Natural Resources Aide**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Lewis, IA  
District Fisheries Management and Small Lakes Investigations

May 2011 to August 2011:

- 1) Assisted fisheries biologists in management of lakes within Southwest Iowa.
- 2) Assisted fisheries biologists in aquatic vegetation research in lakes across Iowa.
- 3) Sampled, identified and treated aquatic vegetation.
- 4) Culture of aquatic vegetation species including white and pink water lilies (*Nymphaea* spp.) and large-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton amplifolius*).
- 5) Sampled adult fishes using a variety of gears including boat and backpack electrofishing and hoop nets.
- 6) Assisted with public fish identification and fishing clinics.
- 7) Assisted with tagging of fishes using VIE and OTC marks.
- 8) Developed an independent undergraduate research project investigating the role of aquatic vegetation in structuring juvenile bluegill populations in Iowa lakes.

**Fisheries Research Technician**

South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD  
Department of Natural Resource Management

September 2009 to May 2010:

- 1) Assisted graduate research investigating trophic interactions in Missouri River reservoirs.
- 2) Aged adult walleye otoliths.
- 3) Processed zooplankton, walleye stomach content, water quality and fish stable isotope analysis samples in the laboratory.

## Natural Resources Aide

Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Boone, IA  
Aquatic Nuisance Species Program

May 2009 to August 2009:

- 1) Assisted fisheries biologist and technician in management of aquatic nuisance species across Iowa.
- 2) Sampled adult fishes using boat electrofishing and hoop nets.
- 3) Sampled, identified and treated aquatic vegetation.
- 4) Assisted with public fishing clinics.
- 5) Conducted public watercraft inspections for aquatic nuisance species.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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Kaemingk, M. A., **K. J. Stahr**, J. C. Jolley, R. S. Holland, and D. W. Willis. 2014. Evidence for bluegill spawning plasticity by disentangling complex factors related to recruitment. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 71(1):93-105.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2013. Factors associated with bluegill nest site selection within a shallow, natural lake. *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* 28(2):283-292.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN REVIEW/PREPARATION

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**Stahr, K. J.**, and M. A. Kaemingk. *In prep.* Patterns of habitat use by juvenile fishes, zooplankton, and macroinvertebrates among three emergent macrophyte species.

**Stahr, K. J.**, and D. E. Shoup. *In prep.* American water willow (*Justicia americana*) affects the survival and anti-predator behavior of juvenile largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*).

**Stahr, K. J.**, and D. E. Shoup. *In prep.* The effects of macrophyte stem density and complexity on foraging return of pre-piscivorous juvenile largemouth bass.

## POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

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**Stahr, K.**, M. Kaemingk, and D. Willis. 2011. Bluegill: to hatch early or hatch late? Tis more than a Shakespearean question. *Pond Boss Magazine* XX (1):24-27.

## RESEARCH GRANTS PURSUED

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**K. J. Stahr.** 2013. Evaluating the effect of turbidity on habitat selection and survival of juvenile largemouth bass. Sigma Xi Grants-In-Aid-of-Research Program. \$980. *Not received*

**K. J. Stahr** and D. E. Shoup. 2012. The efficacy of water willow as a management tool to enhance juvenile largemouth bass recruitment. The Aquatic Plant Management Society Student Research Grant. \$28,864. *Not received*

## PROFESSIONAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS (Total = 12)

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**Stahr, K. J.**, and D. E. Shoup. 2014. The role of American water willow in mediating juvenile largemouth bass survival and anti-predator behavior. 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association Conference, Stillwater, OK.

**Stahr, K. J.**, and D. E. Shoup. 2014. The effects of aquatic vegetation on foraging efficiency and predator avoidance of juvenile largemouth bass. Joint Meeting of the Oklahoma and Texas Chapters of the American Fisheries Society, Pottsboro, TX.

**Stahr, K. J.**, and D. E. Shoup. 2014. The effects of aquatic macrophytes on the foraging ability and predation risk of juvenile largemouth bass. Annual Meeting, Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, Charleston, SC.

**Stahr, K. J.**, and D. E. Shoup. 2013. The role of aquatic macrophytes in mediating predation risk of juvenile largemouth bass. 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, American Fisheries Society (Reservoir Habitat Symposium), Little Rock, AR. *Invited presentation*

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2013. Factors affecting selection of nesting habitat by bluegills within a natural lake. 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association Conference, Stillwater, OK.

Kaemingk, M. A., **K. J. Stahr**, J. C. Jolley, and D. W. Willis. 2013. What happened to the master angler bluegills in Pelican Lake, Nebraska: Revisited from an early life history perspective. 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Gretna, NE.

Kaemingk, M. A., **K. J. Stahr**, J. C. Jolley, and D. W. Willis. 2012. Uncovering recruitment bottlenecks in a Great Plains bluegill population. 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Wichita, KS.

**Stahr, K. J.**, and D. E. Shoup. 2012. The efficacy of water willow to reduce predation on juvenile largemouth bass: preliminary observations. 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Oklahoma Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Stillwater, OK.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2012. The influence of hatching date on recruitment dynamics of bluegill. 142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, American Fisheries Society, Minneapolis, MN.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2012. The influence of hatching date on recruitment dynamics of bluegill. 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Chamberlain, SD.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2012. The influence of hatching date on recruitment dynamics of bluegill. 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Gretna, NE.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2012. The influence of hatching date on recruitment dynamics of bluegill. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Fisheries Student Colloquium, American Fisheries Society, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

## **PROFESSIONAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS (Total = 15)**

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**Stahr, K. J.**, A. Pennell, and D. E. Shoup. 2014. Differences in epiphytic macroinvertebrate communities between two aquatic macrophyte species: implications for juvenile largemouth bass. 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association Conference, Stillwater, OK.

Pennell, A., **K. J. Stahr**, and D. E. Shoup. 2013. Food availability for juvenile largemouth bass in stands of American water willow, *Justicia americana* and southern naiad, *Najas guadalupensis*. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Research Symposium for the Biological Sciences, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

**Stahr, K. J.**, and D. E. Shoup. 2013. Can planting water willow reduce predation on juvenile largemouth bass? 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association Conference, Stillwater, OK.

**Stahr, K. J.**, D. N. Cashatt, L. J. Bruce, M. A. Ernst, and J. E. Morris. 2013. The role of aquatic vegetation in regulating juvenile bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) growth and abundance in Iowa impoundments. Annual Meeting, Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Honey Creek State Park, Moravia, IA. **Best Student Poster Award**

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2012. Characteristics of bluegill nesting colonies within a Nebraska Sandhill lake. Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Day, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2012. The impact of hatching date on recruitment dynamics of juvenile fishes: insight into the early life history of bluegill in a Nebraska Sandhill lake. Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Day, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD.

**Stahr, K. J.**, D. N. Cashatt, L. J. Bruce, M. A. Ernst, and J. E. Morris. 2012. The role of aquatic vegetation in regulating juvenile bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) growth and abundance in Iowa impoundments. 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Chamberlain, SD.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2012. Characteristics of bluegill nesting colonies within a Nebraska Sandhill lake. 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Chamberlain, SD.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2012. Characteristics of bluegill nesting colonies within a Nebraska Sandhill lake. 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Gretna, NE.

**Stahr, K. J.**, D. N. Cashatt, L. J. Bruce, M. A. Ernst, and J. E. Morris. 2012. The role of aquatic vegetation in regulating juvenile bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) growth and abundance in Iowa impoundments. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Fisheries Student Colloquium, American Fisheries Society, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

**Stahr, K. J.**, D. N. Cashatt, L. J. Bruce, M. A. Ernst, and J. E. Morris. 2011. The role of aquatic vegetation in regulating juvenile bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) growth and abundance in Iowa impoundments. 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Des Moines, IA.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2011. The impact of hatching date on recruitment dynamics of juvenile fishes: insight into the early life history of bluegill in a Nebraska Sandhill lake. 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Des Moines, IA.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2011. Cohort contribution of larval and juvenile bluegill: a better understanding of recruitment bottlenecks. 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Bismarck, ND.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2011. Cohort contribution of larval and juvenile bluegill: a better understanding of recruitment bottlenecks. 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Gretna, NE.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2011. Cohort contribution of larval and juvenile bluegill: a better understanding of recruitment bottlenecks. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Student Fisheries Colloquium, American Fisheries Society, Brookings, SD.

## **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (Total = 2)**

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Kaemingk, M. A, **K. J. Stahr**, and D. W. Willis. 2012. Bluegill spawning habitat selection in different waterbodies: implications for your pond? Pond Boss V Conference and Expo, Ridgedale, MO.

**Stahr, K. J.**, M. A. Kaemingk, and D. W. Willis. 2011. Cohort contribution of larval and juvenile bluegill: a better understanding of recruitment bottlenecks. Pond Boss IV Conference and Expo, Ridgedale, MO.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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Fall 2014 NREM 3012 – Applied Ecology (OSU)

*Guest Instructor*

- 1) Provided lecture on fisheries and reservoir ecology.
- 2) Instructed students in field fisheries techniques including backpack electrofishing and seining.

Fall 2013 NREM 4424/5424 – Fisheries Techniques (OSU)

*Guest Instructor*

- 1) Instructed students in field fisheries techniques including backpack electrofishing and seining.

Spring 2013 NREM 4414/5414 – Fisheries Management (OSU)

*Teaching Assistant*

- 1) Instructed laboratory portion of class, providing lectures and helping students with class exercises and homework.
- 2) Graded course exams and homework assignments.

## **GUEST LECTURES**

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Fall 2014 Innovative Fish Stocking Strategies for Ponds. NREM4452/5452 – Pond Management, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

Fall 2013 New and Innovative Pond Fisheries Management Strategies. NREM4990/5990 – Pond Management, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

Management of Aquatic Vegetation. NREM4421/5421 – Fisheries Techniques, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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### American Fisheries Society (AFS)

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Since 2011   | Parent Society   |
| Since 2011   | Student Subsection (Education Section)                 |
| Since 2011   | Fish Management Section                                |
| 2009 to 2012 | South Dakota State University Student Subunit          |
| 2011 to 2012 | Dakota Chapter   |
| 2010 to 2012 | North Central Division Centrarchid Technical Committee |
| Since 2012   | Oklahoma Chapter                                       |
| Since 2012   | Oklahoma State University Student Subunit              |
| Since 2013   | Southern Division Reservoir Technical Committee        |

### Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS)

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| Since 2013 | Parent Society |
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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### American Fisheries Society

|              |  |
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| 2012 to 2014 | Secretary/Treasurer, OSU Student Subunit                   |
| 2012 to 2013 | Student Colloquium Committee Co-chair, OSU Student Subunit |
| 2011         | Vice-President, SDSU Student Subunit                       |

### Manuscript Reviewer

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| 2014 | <i>Journal of Freshwater Ecology, The Prairie Naturalist</i> |
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## HONORS AND AWARDS

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| 2014 | Outstanding Fisheries Graduate Student Award (OSU)<br>Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship (AFS)  |
| 2013 | John E. Skinner Memorial Travel Award (AFS)<br>Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship (AFS)<br>Best Student Poster Award (Iowa Chapter of AFS)  |
| 2012 | Jimmie Pigg Travel Award (Oklahoma Chapter of AFS)<br>John E. Skinner Memorial Travel Award, Honorable Mention (AFS)<br>Sigma Xi Best Undergraduate Research Poster Award, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place (SDSU)<br>Schultz-Werth Award for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (SDSU) |
| 2011 | Student Opportunity Travel Grant Award (SDSU)<br>Dr. James C. Schmulbach Award (Dakota Chapter of AFS)<br>Sauger Scholarship Award (Dakota Chapter of AFS)<br>Wilbur Allen Scholarship (SDSU)  |
| 2010 | South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited Scholarship (SDSU)   |
| 2009 | Norgren Water and Wildlife Conservation Scholarship (SDSU)<br>Wilbur Allen Scholarship (SDSU)  |

**CERTIFICATIONS/WORKSHOPS ATTENDED**

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- 2013      Motorboat Operator Certification, Department of the Interior  
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
- In/Over the Water Safety Training Certification, Department of the Interior  
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
- 2012      BACI (Before-After-Control-Impact) Statistics Workshop  
American Fisheries Society, Bismarck, ND
- 2011      Fisheries Age and Growth Workshop  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
- 2010      Fisheries Age and Growth Workshop  
American Fisheries Society, Lacrosse, WI



## **REFERENCES**

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Dr. Daniel Shoup, Associate Professor  
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Dr. Mark Kaemingk, NSF Postdoctoral Fellow  
Victoria University Coastal Ecology Laboratory  
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