Behavioural responses of a chalk-stream grayling population to catch and release angling

Internship length: 70 days at £96.15 per day (based on a 7.5 h day). There is some flexibility in when these days are worked (i.e. does not need to be 5 days per week).

Start date: Flexible, but with field work commencing in mid / late June 2021 and running throughout the summer and autumn.

Location: All work is field-based, completed on the River Frome, East Stoke, Dorset. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Intern will require their own computer for data analyses. PPE (waders/ life-jacket/ Covid-19 related PPE) will be provided. All work will be subject to risk assessment and will adhere to national guidelines on Covid-19 at all times.

Qualifications / previous knowledge required: M.Sc. in relevant subject / experience in fish related fieldwork (essential) and / or tracking of animals using telemetry methods (desirable). Due to Covid-19 restrictions on sharing vehicles, the intern must be able to travel independently to the field site, which is easiest by car but is possible by train.

Overview: Since 2016, researchers at Bournemouth University (BU) have been generating new knowledge on grayling in chalk-streams, including in the lower River Frome, where our work has focused on the physiological response of these fish to recreational catch and release angling. Our overall aim is to develop best-practice guidance on the sustainable exploitation of chalk stream fish populations by recreational angling.

This internship is integral to achieving this overall aim, as the work will focus on applying radio telemetry techniques to the tracking of individual grayling within a defined section of the lower River Frome. It will measure the movements and behaviour of tagged grayling in the period before and after they are subjected to catch-and-release angling. The work will also generate new data on the movement ecology of grayling more generally, including in relation to periods of elevated water temperature and river flow, and their daily activity budgets. There could also be the opportunity to generate data on fish responses to angling baits and gear. The intern will then work collaboratively with BU researchers and our industry partners to develop and disseminate these results in a range of appropriate formats.

To apply: Please email Dr Adrian Pinder with a CV and expression of interest in the first instance (apinder@bournemouth.ac.uk). **Deadline for expression of interest: Tuesday 4th May.** Due to a likely high volume of interest, you will only hear back from us if we short-list you for interview**.** Please note that the internship is sponsored by the Fishmongers' Company (https://fishmongers.org.uk/fish-fisheries/).