**Master of Science Student Opportunity**

**University of Manitoba**

**with the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium Inc.**

**and Fisheries & Oceans Canada**

A variety of environmental pressures have been impacting the aquatic community in Lake Winnipeg for decades. The main objective of this MSc project is to reveal long-term trends in the pelagic fish community of Lake Winnipeg. The project will include data collection, lab work, and database management and analysis conducted in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium (LWRC). The LWRC coordinates whole ecosystem research and monitoring within a network of 65 lake-wide stations on Lake Winnipeg. DFO leads the long-term pelagic fish program on Lake Winnipeg.

**Starting Date is May 15th, 2023**

**Program**

MSc Graduate Program, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba.

**Supervision**

MSc Program – Dr. Lee Gutowsky (DFO)

Field Program – Doug Watkinson (DFO) and Dr. Karen Scott (LWRC)

**Field duties**

The successful candidate will oversee field activities, including trawling, on board the LWRC’s vessel M/V *Namao* during the 2023 and 2024 open water seasons. Three research surveys of approximately 20 days each comprise the field season: 65 stations are visited per survey. A variety of sampling devices are deployed at each site while at anchor, and trawling is undertaken while underway. Nearshore and outflow stations are sampled by workboat.

**Location**

Field work will be based out of Gimli, MB with sampling taking place on Lake Winnipeg, north and south basins. Lab work will be conducted at the Freshwater Institute (DFO) in Winnipeg.

**Requirements**

* University degree in Biology or Environmental Sciences
* Proof of enrollment in the MSc Graduate Program at the University of Manitoba, Department of Biological Sciences
* Mature, responsible individual who is comfortable living and working with others in close quarters on board a ship
* Excellent record-keeping abilities
* Comfortable working with computer software including Word, Excel, and R

**Funding**

Funding for up to two years is available and a berth and board are provided during surveys.