

[The Aquatic Sciences Lab](#) at The Jones Center at Ichauway and [The Freshwater Ecology Lab](#) at Georgia Southern University are accepting applications for a M.S. graduate research assistantship beginning in Fall 2026. The student will spend 2 semesters completing course work in Statesboro, GA and the remaining time at The Jones Center at Ichauway, located in Newton, GA. Data collected as part of this project will inform the 2025 Georgia State Wildlife Action Plan on the distribution, abundance, and diversity of crayfishes in the Lower Flint River Basin and be a companion dataset to current efforts to detail crayfish ecology in the Atlantic drainage basins in Georgia.

Location: The student will join two active lab groups during the graduate program. Class work will take place in Statesboro, GA in the Freshwater Ecology Lab, joining a dynamic and diverse group of researchers in the Department of Biological Sciences. Field work will take place at The Jones Center at Ichauway, a research institute in the footprint of longleaf pine-wiregrass ecosystem in Newton, GA. The Jones Center has access to 15 miles of Ichawaynochaway Creek, 13 miles of the Flint River, and over 100 wetlands, located in the karst Dougherty Plain of SW Georgia and home to 8 research labs with full-time faculty and staff that focus on conservation and research of the region. While at The Jones Center, the student will live in the on-site facilities with a thriving community of graduate students and technicians in the longleaf pine forest.

Qualifications: BS degree in biology, ecology, environmental sciences, or a related field. Successful applicants will be motivated, creative, and successful working independently and collaboratively in diverse lab and field settings. Previous experience with field, quantitative, and project management skills are preferred, but not required.

Start date: The Fall 2026 semester at GSU starts August 13, 2026. Dates for application to GSU graduate school will be communicated.

Stipend: Year 1: \$17000, Year 2: \$20,000

To apply: If interested, please email Drs. Nick Marzolf (nick.marzolf@jonesctr.org) and Checo Colon-Gaud (jccolongaud@georgiasouthern.edu) a: 1) personal statement that describes background experience and research interests; 2) CV or resumé; 3) unofficial transcripts (official transcripts will be needed for GSU application); and 4) Contact information for 3 references. Please add the subject: "JC/GSU grad position: crayfish". Review of applicants will begin on May 1, 2026 with the possibility to visit the host labs in the summer of 2026. Please direct any questions to Drs. Marzolf and Colon-Gaud via email.