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Aquatic Sciences Laboratory Manager
Montana University System Water Center
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EDUCATION

M.S. Mariculture, Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi, 2004

B.S. Biology (Emphasis: Marine), Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi, 2001

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Aquatic Sciences Laboratory Manager, Montana University System Water Center, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana (2005-Current)

Responsible for the management of lab facilities, oversight of ongoing research projects and lab animals, and design and maintenance of research systems. Assist with the design and implantation of experiments. Act as a technical advisor for the Montana Water Center.

Laboratory Research Assistant II, Supervisor: Izhar A. Khan, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute Fisheries & Mariculture Laboratory, Port Aransas, Texas (2002-2005)

Research and maintenance of warmwater, marine finfish (i.e. red drum, Atlantic croaker, spotted seatrout, gray snapper, red snapper and cobia), and design and maintenance of aquaculture systems. Conducted various forms of field sampling and collection of specimens and broodstock. Responsible for the management of the laboratory including training and oversight of students and technicians, development of lab protocols and manuals, and similar duties therein. Assisted with the planning and execution of research projects. Served as the main contact person for the laboratory both professionally and publicly.

SKILLS

Experience with various aspects of plumbing, carpentry, metal and electrical work. Experience operating small boats. Experience with aquaculture and laboratory equipment. Knowledge of various computer programs, as well as statistical analysis and programs.

PRESENTATIONS

Kucherka, W.D., Thomas, P., McKee, D.A., Khan, I.A. (2005). Sex differences in

steroid hormone profiles in red drum *Sciaenops ocellatus*. Aquaculture America 2005, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

PUBLICATIONS

Kucherka, W.D., Thomas, P., Khan, I.A. (2006). Sex steroids for gender identification in red drum *Sciaenops ocellatus*. World Aquaculture [*in press*]

Kucherka, W.D., Thomas, P., Khan, I.A. (2006). Sex differences in circulating steroid hormone levels in the red drum *Sciaenops ocellatus* L. Aquaculture Research [*submitted*]

Khan, I.A., Mohamed, J.S., Kucherka, W.D. (2006). Isolation and expression of three GnRH messengers in discrete brain areas of the red drum, *Sciaenops ocellatus*. *In:* Aquaculture America 2006 Abstracts, Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

Kucherka, W.D., Thomas, P., McKee, D.A., Khan, I.A. (2005). Sex differences in steroid hormone profiles in red drum *Sciaenops ocellatus*. Pp. 221 *In:* Aquaculture America 2005 Abstracts, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.