We are looking for multiple student technicians for aquatic and fisheries ecology research projects in the Roy and Jordaan labs (described below). Preference will be given to rising sophomores and rising juniors from UMass Amherst. To apply, email cover letter (with name, email address, and phone number for two references, including at least one academic reference), resume (with your local contact information, pertinent experiences, relevant coursework, etc.), and unofficial transcript to Allison Roy aroy@eco.umass.edu. If you are interested in more than one project, please indicate your preferred order of consideration in your cover letter. Also indicate if you have work study or have any restrictions on summer availability. Review of applications will begin on 19 March 2018, and interviews will take place the week of March 26th.

1) Lake Food Webs (1 position)
The technician will assist a PhD student on a project examining effects of winter lake drawdowns on lake littoral communities and food webs. The position is mostly lab work, but will occasionally conduct field work. In the lab, the technician will dissect fish and help with data management. Fieldwork will consist of water quality sampling, water level logger maintenance, habitat surveys, and fish sampling in a few lakes. The position is based at UMass Amherst, but will require driving to field sites throughout Massachusetts with USGS vehicles. Applicants with a strong background and interest in lab and field work, particularly related to aquatic systems are preferred. Must be able to swim and be comfortable in canoes and snorkeling. Dependability, attention to detail, initiative, and independence will also be considered.

Supervisors: Jason Carmignani (PhD student) and Allison Roy (PI)
Employment Period: May through August 2017 (15 weeks) for 35-40 hours/week, but flexible to do only part of the summer or work fewer hours/week (please indicate in your application)
Salary: $11/hour ($6000 for summer)

2) River Herring Productivity (2 positions)
The technicians will assist on a project investigating river herring productivity in estuaries and coastal freshwater lakes and ponds in New England. The positions are split between field work and lab work. For field work (10-15 days/month), juvenile fishes will be sampled at night in lakes from a boat using purse seines and during the day in estuaries using beach seines. Additional sampling will take place for water quality, habitat quality, zooplankton, etc. When not in the field, technicians will be ageing fish otoliths, identifying zooplankton, entering data, and organizing samples. Additional opportunities with this position include developing a database and performing statistical and/or spatial analyses. The position is based at UMass Amherst, but will require extended overnight travel (> 1 week at a time) to field sites throughout New England. Applicants with a strong background and interest in fishes and aquatic systems, and have experience in field and laboratory settings are preferred. Must be able to swim, be comfortable on boats, and willing to work at night over the water. Teamwork and communication skills are essential. MOCC boat safety training will be provided.

Supervisors: Matt Devine (PhD student), Adrian Jordaan (PI), and Allison Roy (PI)
Employment Period: May through August 2017 (15 weeks) for 35-40 hours/week
Salary: $11/hour ($6000 for summer)
3) River Herring Ecophysiology (1 position)
The technician will assist on a project investigating the effects of temperature and food availability on juvenile river herring physiology in laboratory and field experiments. Initially (May), work will be focused on rearing river herring from eggs to juveniles, requiring careful fish and zooplankton husbandry. Later (June-Aug), the work will comprise of running ecophysiology experiments in the laboratory and potentially in the field. Daily tasks include caring for fish tanks, checking experimental systems, and measuring physiological traits/sampling fish. This position is primarily in the wet lab, although there will be limited field work opportunities. The position is based at Cronin Aquatic Resource Center in Sunderland, MA, where the technician will have opportunities to interact with other UMass students and USFWS biologists. Candidates who have attention to detail, ability to perform mundane tasks with accuracy, and are interested in learning about fish ecophysiology or fisheries/aquaculture are preferred.

Supervisors: Lian Guo (PhD Student) and Adrian Jordaan (PI)
Employment Period: May through August 2017 (15 weeks) for 35-40 hours/week
Salary: $11/hour ($6000 for summer)

4) Freshwater Mussel Conservation and Propagation (1-2 positions)
The aquatic technicians will work with a team of graduate students at the US Fish & Wildlife Service’s Richard Cronin Aquatic Resource Center in Sunderland, MA (5 min from UMass-Amherst and on the bus line). Tasks include culturing freshwater mussels, using a microscope, recording data, cleaning and sterilizing equipment, and working around the facility and outside in the raceways. The technicians will also help a PhD student in the field which includes working with volunteers from the Connecticut River Conservancy. Field work involves collecting water quality, and conducting mussel and habitat surveys throughout rivers in Massachusetts. In June and August, the technicians may also work 2 days per week doing mussel surveys with the state endangered species biologist, Pete Hazelton. Applicants must be able to travel to and from Cronin, be comfortable in the water, and be willing to snorkel. The ability to work with tools and lift heavy objects is preferred. Candidates who have attention to detail, ability to perform mundane tasks with accuracy, and are excited about working with freshwater mussels will be considered.

Supervisors: Ayla Skorupa (PhD student), Virginia Martell (MS student), Timothy Warren (USFWS), Dave Perkins (US Fish & Wildlife Service), Pete Hazelton (MDFW), and Allison Roy (UMass)
Employment Period: May through August 2017 (15 weeks) for 35-40 hours/week
Salary: $11/hour ($6000 for summer)

5) Dam Removal (1 position)
The technician will assist a research associate in a project investigating stream ecosystem responses to small dam removal. The work involves downloading and deploying temperature loggers (May-June), deploying dissolved oxygen loggers (July-Aug), sampling macroinvertebrates, and potentially assisting MassWildlife with fish sampling. Lab work involves calibrating equipment and checking data. The position is based at UMass Amherst, but will require driving to field sites throughout Massachusetts (many sites are in eastern MA) with USGS vehicles. Applicants must have a driver’s license and insurance to drive USGS vehicles. Applicants with a strong background and interest in water quality and streams are preferred. Must be able to swim and be comfortable in canoes. Dependability, attention to detail, initiative, and independence will also be considered.

Supervisors: Research Associate (TBD) and Allison Roy (PI)
Employment Period: May through August 2017 (15 weeks) for 35-40 hours/week
Salary: $11/hour ($6000 for summer)