



For Immediate Release
June 13, 2025

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The Great Lakes Fishery Commission and Michigan State University Select Dr. Marjorie Liberati as New Assistant Professor

Dr. Liberati joins the MSU Quantitative Fisheries Center

Lansing, MI—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Michigan State University (MSU) Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and Quantitative Fisheries Center (QFC) are pleased to announce the recent hiring of Dr. Marjorie ‘Mauri’ Liberati as an Assistant Professor with a research focus on Decision Science and Structured Decision Making. Dr. Liberati’s hiring is through the Partnership for Ecosystem Research and Management program, which is a partnership involving MSU, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and Guelph University to support fishery and wildlife scientists who conduct research advancing conservation and management to meet public needs. Prior to her hiring, Dr. Liberati was a quantitative modeler with the MDNR Wildlife Division’s Biological and Social Sciences Section in Lansing, MI. Dr. Liberati joins the faculty, staff, and students of the QFC to help advance the center’s mission of being a leader in sustainable and effective fishery management through the development, application, and teaching of innovative quantitative and decision analytic methods.

The QFC is supported through funding provided by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, MSU, MDNR, and several Tribal, state, and provincial agencies with fishery management jurisdiction within the Great Lakes. Established in 2005, the QFC seeks to enhance fishery management by providing a research, outreach, and teaching program broadly focused on stock assessment, fish population dynamics, harvest policy evaluation, adaptive management, and decision science. Dr. Liberati’s hiring returns expertise in adaptive management and decision science to the QFC, which was lost when Dr. Mike Jones retired and Dr. Kelly Robinson accepted an Assistant Unit Leader position with the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. QFC researchers have a long history of assisting Great Lakes fishery and wildlife management agencies in identifying robust, stakeholder-supported management policies addressing an array of management challenges through decision science frameworks, such as structured decision making. Past structured decision making projects led by QFC researchers have included the development of Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch management plans, suppression efforts to control grass carp populations in Lake Erie, and fish passage options for the Boardman/Ottaway River. Structured decision making is valued because of its emphasis on collaborations among stakeholder and rightsholder groups to define management problems, frame management objectives, and identify potential management actions and sources of uncertainty.

“Quantitative science is fundamental to understanding cause-and-effect relationships within our Great Lakes ecosystem,” said Ethan Baker, chair of the Commission. “The [MSU Quantitative Fisheries Center](#) is an incredible resource to the Great Lakes and is consistently at the cutting edge of fisheries science. The scientific researchers and students are delving into topics like habitat, population dynamics, and modelling, which are directly related to the health of the Great Lakes, and our community benefits greatly from this work. We are pleased to have Dr. Liberati join the QFC team.”

Dr. Liberati earned an M.Sc. from the Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. Her interests lie in landscape ecology, conservation planning, decision science, and socioecological dynamics of natural resource management. Dr. Liberati has 21 peer-reviewed scientific publications and in 2019 received the David R. Anderson Outstanding Student Paper Award from *The Wildlife Society*, which recognizes the contributions of early career members to the development and application of biometrics to the field of wildlife management, conservation, and ecology. Dr. Liberati brings a unique perspective and excitement to her new role at the QFC.



Pictured: Dr. Marjorie 'Mauri' Liberati, newly hired Assistant Professor at the Quantitative Fisheries Center at Michigan State University.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is an international organization established by the United States and Canada through the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries. The Commission has the responsibility to support fisheries research, control the invasive sea lamprey, and facilitate cross-border management. Visit www.glfc.org

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