



Master thesis at the BOKU IHG, working group RHEOPHYLAX

Hydropeaking - Impacts on aquatic macroinvertebrates and monitoring

The Master thesis will be conducted in the frame of the research project ÖkoResch. One aim of the project is to evaluate restoration measures in hydropeaking affected river stretches.

Aims of the thesis:

- Assess and describe the impacts of hydropeaking on colonization patterns of benthic invertebrates in three river systems in Austria
- Identify sensitive metrics and indicator species or traits to describe the effects
- Discuss results comprehensively including international literature

Contact:

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Time frame:

Literature research should start in January 2021, field work will take place from March to April (depending on the weather conditions). Data analyses and writing should be finished by the end of 2021 but depends on the student's commitment.

Duties and responsibilities:

- Comprehensive literature research
- Joining a large field campaign with an interdisciplinary team of scientists
- Laboratory work: sorting, identifying and counting
- Analysing field data using advanced statistical methods

Requirements:

- Basic knowledge and interest in benthic ecology
- Basic knowledge in statistics
- Interest in outdoor sampling activities and laboratory work

We offer:

- Thorough guidance and space for self-responsibilities
- Insights into applied research
- Interdisciplinary participation in project activities and exchange with partners (hydropower companies and Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism)
- Payment of all field work activities