



Dexter National Fish Hatchery & Technology Center Molecular Ecology Lab Biographies

Catherine Sykes, M.A., Research Associate

Expertise: Toxicity, Nutrition and Salmonid Genetics. Ms. Sykes has a diverse research background that includes the dietary requirements of Rio Grande silvery minnow, and the chemical stress response of fathead minnows. Current research includes LC-50 assays of endangered fish to develop methods of quagga mussel control, and the genetic analysis of Rio Grande cutthroat trout for the state of New Mexico and tribal partners.

Connie Keeler-Foster, Ph.D., Research Leader

Expertise : Conservation and Ecological Genetics. Dr. Keeler-Foster is a native of New Mexico, and her research focuses on the conservation genetics of rare and endemic species. She is actively involved in writing genetic management plans for endangered propagated fish, and oversees research conducted by the facility.

Gerard Zegers, Ph.D., Genetics Research Postdoctoral Associate

Expertise: Ecology and Genetics of Major Histocompatibility Complex. Dr. Zegers has used MHC to identify population genetic parameters for several species, including Pocket Gophers. His interest in MHC involves balancing selection-a mechanism to preserve genetic diversity in rare organisms. Dr. Zeger is currently working on MHC in Devils Hole pupfish, and genetic monitoring of captive stocks of razorback sucker.

Jenny Gumm, Ph. D. Candidate, Visiting Scientist

Expertise: Pupfish Behavior and Genetic Analysis. Ms. Gumm joined the Molecular Program in 2006, and is working on mating behavior of pupfish in refugia and in the wild. Her work identifying behavioral dynamics of pupfish will allow optimal breeding strategies and enhance recovery efforts for several endangered pupfish species.

Renee Marie Martin, B.S., Molecular Ecology Technician

Expertise: Molecular Diagnostics and Genetic Analysis. Ms. Martin has a background in microbiology, and has recently received training in the molecular diagnostics of the amphibian pathogen, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. Renee also ran over 5,000 single nucleotide polymorphism samples this year, and microsatellite samples for a variety of other projects.

Sherri Baker, M.S., Molecular Ecology Laboratory Manager

Expertise: Geospatial Technology and Genetic Analysis. Ms. Baker is interested in catfish genetics, and in addition to ensuring the smooth operation of the laboratory, she has started a project on Yaqui catfish. She also generates data to support other projects, and provides computer support for MEL staff