

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE



2019 Webinar Series



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Lee has lived and breathed fish passage research for over 18 years and has worked in government, universities and private industry. His research has been in several broad areas, including fish passage and fish migration, dietary interactions among native fish species, the impact of human disturbance on aquatic ecosystems and, more recently, mitigating hydropower impacts on tropical rivers in South East Asia. Dr Baumgartner's work has also focused on developing innovative methods for assessment (such as the adaptation of sonar technology to migration studies) and improving existing fish collection techniques.

Lee presently manages a wide range of fish passage research projects and has active global collaborations in over 10 countries.

WEBINAR INFORMATION

Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Time:

12:00 PM PST / 3:00 PM EST / 8:00PM GMT

Duration: 60 Minutes

Webinar Platform: Skype for Business

RSVP, by emailing Erin McCombs at

fisheriesengineeringscience@gmail.com.

(call in number will be provided to registrants)

DEVELOPING FISHWAYS IN LAO PDR – A CASE STUDY FROM THE LOWER MEKONG BASINS

Lee Baumgartner

Charles Sturt University, Bathurst

Lao PDR is a landlocked country situated within the Lower Mekong River Basin where there is a substantial dependency on rice and fish for food, income and livelihoods. The country is experiencing an unprecedented boom in irrigation infrastructure investment, with modernisation programs being implemented in every province. Despite significant investment in infrastructure upgrades, and the potential impact on freshwater fish, little consideration has been given to fish passage solutions. In 2008, our team commenced a fish passage program in Lao PDR. The intent of this presentation is to outline the pivotal elements of the program of knowledge development and transfer, in the context of river connectivity and fisheries management in Lao PDR. At the technical level, the project has involved research on mapping barriers; developing criteria for ranking barriers with respect to benefits from inclusion of fish passage; designing effective infrastructure for successful upstream and downstream migration; and monitoring and documenting ecological and community benefits. From a socio-cultural perspective, the project has engaged key government agencies in all aspects of the research; led to a new "fish passage curriculum" at the national University of Lao; involved the local community in fishway construction and monitoring; disseminated the processes and results regionally and globally via workshops, symposiums and publications; and has led to new funding from donor agencies for scale-out in Lao PDR and regionally (Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam). The webinar will highlight challenges in international research in development and highlight lessons learned.

Please RSVP and direct any questions or comments to Erin McCombs at fisheriesengineeringscience@gmail.com.

The Joint Committee on Fisheries Engineering and Science is hosting a free webinar series as part of its mission to engage scientists and engineers on topics related to fish passage. The Committee consists of members of the American Fisheries Society Bioengineering Section (AFS-BES) and the American Society of Civil Engineers Environmental and Water Resources Institute (ASCE-EWRI). It was established in January 2011 to foster communication between the two groups, provide opportunities for engineers and biologists to share relevant knowledge and learn from one another, and to collaborate on projects related to fish passage.