

The Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management is pleased to announce this week's seminar speaker:

Dr. Joseph Mrnak

Research Fish Biologist
Iowa Department of Natural Resources



Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management and Restoration

Friday, April 10, 2026
Science Hall II, Room 220 & via Webex
3:10 pm – 4:00 pm

Seminar Description:

Aquatic ecosystems are undergoing abrupt transformations due to the dual pressures of invasive species and global climate change. As these systems diverge from historical food web structures and species interactions, traditional single-species management frameworks often fail to account for the key ecological processes that define the new system structure. This seminar will advocate for "food web thinking" – a systems-based approach that prioritizes ecological processes and habitat use over the removal of single stressors. By viewing fisheries management through an ecosystem lens, we may better understand system trajectories and improve our ability to restore and sustain inland fish communities in a dynamic world.

Speaker Background:

Dr. Joseph Mrnak joined the Iowa Department of Natural Resources research team in spring 2025 following many years with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources research group leading statewide fishery surveys, large-scale experimental manipulations, and student mentoring programs. He holds an M.Sc. in Fisheries Sciences from the USGS Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit at South Dakota State University and a PhD in Freshwater and Marine Sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for Limnology.