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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shawn Devlin joins Whitefish Lake Institute staff part-time as Aquatic Ecologist.

WHITEFISH, MT, April 9, 2018 – Shawn Devlin will share his expertise with the Whitefish Lake Institute (WLI) staff on a .2 part time basis. Devlin, an Assistant Research Professor for Aquatic Ecology at the University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS), will conduct research with WLI staff on ongoing projects.

“This is an excellent opportunity for WLI to expand its scientific research capacity and for our two organizations to increase our collaborative partnership to further watershed science,” commented Mike Koopal, WLI’s Founder and Executive Director. “I expect Shawn to expand our integrated knowledge of Whitefish Lake and answer some lingering questions about lake dynamics so that our community can better manage our headwaters lake.”

Devlin and Koopal are also partnering on a research paper to describe the unique and complex dynamics of Tally Lake. Devlin’s efforts at the FLBS encompass work with a sophisticated computer model and the extensive dataset collected on Flathead Lake by FLBS researchers over the past 35 years.

“The model helps frame the questions of how climate change or introduced species like zebra mussels may affect the lake's biogeochemistry and thermal dynamics, and how increased nutrient loading and changes in land use may affect primary production and water clarity,” according to Devlin.

Devlin earned his Ph.D. from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio and a B.Sc. in Environmental Biology from Unity College in Unity Maine. He conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland prior to coming to work at the FLBS. Shawn received the 2017 Raymond B. Lindeman Award from the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), one of the world’s largest and most prestigious international societies for water scientists. The Lindeman Award recognizes an outstanding paper written by a young aquatic scientist. His paper, "Top Consumer Abundance Influences Lake Methane Efflux" published in the journal *Nature Communications*, showed that methane released from a lake was greatly influenced by the presence or absence of fish.

Devlin was also the lead author on “Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of Invasive Freshwater Shrimp (*Mysis Diluviana*): Long-Term Effects on Ecosystem Properties in a Large Oligotrophic Lake" published in the journal *Ecosystems*.”

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Devlin recently returned from Antarctica, where he and fellow scientists studied the unique lake ecology of a permanently ice covered lake in the McMurdo Dry Valleys, one of only two places on the continent not covered by an ice sheet. As part of the study, Devlin dove through 15 feet of ice into Lake Fryxell, a permanently frozen lake surrounded by a mote of meltwater. Previous studies indicate the lake is rising at a steady pace allowing researchers like Devlin to watch its growth over time.

About Whitefish Lake Institute

Founded in 2005, the Whitefish Lake Institute is a 501 (3)(c) non-profit organization committed to science, education, and community stewardship to protect and improve Whitefish Lake and Whitefish area water resources today, while providing a collective vision for tomorrow.

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