

Supervisor's statement on the PhD thesis of Michal Kratochvíl: „Spatio-temporal distribution and feeding of age 0+ fish in different reservoir habitats”

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The submitted thesis is based on three published papers in impacted journals (IF – 0.522, 1.14, 1.784) and one manuscript submitted to *Hydrobiologia*. In all papers, Michal is the first author. The general introduction into the themes studied is well written and testifies good orientation in the literature. The same is true for the general discussion and conclusions.

The content of Michal's thesis can be divided into two parts, the first dealing with behavior (diurnal vertical migrations) and feeding of larval and early juveniles of perciform species in deep stratified and shallow well mixed reservoirs. It could be shown that higher proportion of the total population performs DVM in shallow mixed reservoir and that migrating juveniles exhibit faster growth. The food availability, however, does not seem to be trigger of DVM. Avoidance of predators seems to be more important. The second part deals with 0+ fish distribution at different types of the littoral zone in the Římov reservoir. The preference of particular species for different types of habitats was described as well as diurnal changes in their occurrence.

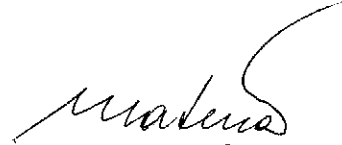
During his stay at the Mississippi State University the applicant learned the advanced methods of fish sampling by electrofishing and applied further these methods in the Czech Republic.

The results of published papers provide new original contributions to the behavior and life strategies of larval and juvenile fish in Czech reservoirs.

Michal proved himself very well during the field sampling in often hard conditions and cooperated well with other colleagues from the FishEcU team. I have to highly appreciate the ability of Michal to formulate clear questions of his studies. All papers are well written; results are critically evaluated and compared with literature data. I appreciate the fact that Michal was able to complete the last two manuscripts besides the demanding job of managing director of Czech Fish Farmers Association.

In conclusion, I evaluate the submitted thesis from the formal and factual point of view as a well done work that meets all requirements of the University of South Bohemia and I recommend it for a successful defense.

České Budějovice, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2013

  
Doc. RNDr. Josef Matěna, CSc.