



**John Deibner-Hanson** received his undergraduate degree in Biology from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. His interests in fisheries followed beginning with his two terms with the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project in Mendocino and Humboldt County. Through work with California Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Smith River Alliance, he focused his career path on salmon and steelhead. His main interests are in ecology and management of anadromous fisheries.

John is pursuing a master's degree in the Fisheries program in the

College of Natural Resources and Sciences under adviser Dr. Peggy Wilzbach where his studies will be focused on coho salmon. Across the Southern Oregon Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho ESU, the species decline has led to federal and state listings under the federal and California Endangered Species acts. Earning an advanced degree will aid in his pursuit to investigate such vital life history attributes of coho salmon as growth, emigration and survival, in order to better understand, manage and recover fish populations.

For his thesis, John is studying habitat-specific overwinter survival of juvenile coho across coastal streams from Mendocino to Del Norte County. Five watersheds will be included in the analysis including Mill Creek (Smith River), Prairie Creek, Freshwater Creek, Pudding Creek and Caspar Creek. Each watershed is a coho life cycle monitoring station, and is equipped with the infrastructure to enable seasonal estimates of juvenile salmonid survival via Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) Tag technology. Variable habitat parameters among watersheds arising from diverse land management histories may suggest regional habitat factors that most affect overwintering survival and that limit production of this threatened fish in SONCC waters.

