

Work experience available in Reisa starting latest June 2023

The American mink project

The American mink (*Neovison vison*) is an invasive, semi-aquatic carnivore that was introduced to Norway through fur farming in the early 20th century. Following escapes and deliberate releases, the species has established feral populations across much of the country. The mink poses a significant threat to native wildlife, particularly ground-nesting birds and small mammals, due to its opportunistic predation and adaptability to diverse habitats. In Norway, the species is classified as an alien invasive species of high ecological concern, and efforts to control its population have been implemented through targeted trapping and monitoring programs. The Norwegian Environment Agency has developed an action plan to address the American mink, outlining objectives, strategies, and key priorities aimed at mitigating the negative impacts of mink on Norwegian nature. However, protected areas with seabird populations have been given priority, while Norwegian river systems with critically endangered anadromous salmon species have received less attention due to the perception that their habitats are less spatially confined, making continuous influx of new individuals more likely.

In 2025, Reisa villakssenter will initiate a project aimed at challenging this assumption by increasing efforts related to trap monitoring and evaluating a methodology that could enable the eradication of wild mink in larger river systems. The project will also analyze genetic material to assess population status and determine whether distinct populations exist, as well as investigate the proportion of different anadromous fish species in the diet of wild mink.

Possibilities for internship related to the American mink project

From the end of June, once the spring flood has subsided, we will commence the season for monitoring mink traps. We are seeking three individuals to work closely together in checking the traps and extracting relevant samples. The workweek will mostly consist of 5-6 days, with a rotation between two people in the field and one person in the laboratory. During periods of low catch rates, workdays will be filled with tasks related to managing activities at the Visitor Centre, the Wild Salmon Park, creating content for social media, and assisting with other ongoing research projects.

Background

Your background should be in ecology, preferably with experience in both laboratory and fieldwork.

Contact

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Reisa

The area where the fieldwork will take place.

