

VITA

Mark H. Schmitz was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin on October 15, 1973 to James H. Schmitz and Nancy J. (Doegnitz) Schmitz. He was raised in Silver Creek, Wisconsin and graduated from Sheboygan Area Lutheran High School in 1992. He then attended the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point. During the summers of 1993-1995, Mark worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on a fish management crew in Plymouth, Wisconsin. Mark was employed as an aquaculture technician at Alpine Farms in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin during the summer of 1996. Mark received a Bachelor of Science degree, with a double major in Biology and in Water Resources with an emphasis in Fisheries in December of 1996.

Mark began a research assistantship at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in July of 1997 under the direction of Dr. George S. Libey. He was engaged to Katherine A. Leibham on August 22, 1998. Mark completed his Master of Science degree in May of 1999.