

ENVS Master's Showcase Abstract

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Title:

Columbia River Invasive Northern Pike - Investigating Movements Through Microchemical Analysis of Otoliths

Abstract:

Northern Pike (*Esox lucious*) is a highly piscivorous invasive fish species in the Columbia River, posing a major threat to native fish communities through predation, competition and the introduction of a variety of diseases. The suspected source of the invasion is from the Pend d'Oreille River which flows northwest from Idaho through Washington and into BC, yet no evidence has been found to support movement through the several hydroelectric facilities on the river and into the Columbia. We performed microchemical analysis of bones within the inner ear of fish called otoliths to study movements of individual Northern Pike captured in the Columbia, and to determine the source population for the invasion.