

Monitoring and Suppression of Smallmouth Bass in Cultus Lake, BC
Wendy Margetts

Smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) are an international invasive species that have major impacts on freshwater ecosystems. In 2018, smallmouth bass were first detected in Cultus Lake. The presence of bass is likely due to an illegal introduction from an angler, hoping to boost sport fishing. The primary goal of this project is to monitor the bass population and determine their impacts on endangered sockeye salmon and pygmy sculpin within Cultus Lake. Direct impacts to these species at risk, primarily from predation, has been indicated through preliminary gut content analysis. To further understand these impacts, we will use acoustic telemetry to identify any overlap between the bass and the endangered species habitats. While at Cultus Lake, we will also be exploring the feasibility of bass nest destruction as an effective method for bass suppression.