

Cultus Lake

MONITORING AND SUPPRESSION OF SMALLMOUTH BASS

Smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) have been illegally introduced into Cultus Lake.

Given that bass are aggressive predators that feed on native fish species, we are concerned that they may negatively impact the two species-at-risk in Cultus Lake (sockeye salmon and pygmy sculpin).



Our objectives are:

1. Angle for adult bass and surgically implant acoustic tags to track their distribution.
2. Conduct diet analysis to determine if bass are preying on species-at-risk.
3. Physically destroy bass nests for species suppression.

What can you do to help? *Fish for us!*

If you catch a **PINK** tagged bass, please release immediately.

If you catch a **GREEN** tagged or **untagged** bass record information (date, # hours spent fishing, tag #, and length) and send to wmargetts@tru.ca

- You can also download and print a form at: fviss.ca/smallmouthbass-cultus
- You may kill or release the green and untagged bass. There is a 20 bass per day limit

PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING:



**Fisheries and Oceans
Canada**

**Pêches et Océans
Canada**

For more information please contact the researcher, Wendy Margetts at wmargetts@tru.ca in the lab of Dr. Brian Heise at TRU

YOU MIGHT SEE



Biologists angling for bass and implanting acoustic tags. Using these tags, we can create a map of where bass are congregating to more effectively eliminate the species.



Biologists snorkeling in shallow water. Bass create large rock nests in the spring for spawning. Biologists will be physically destroying these nests to suppress the population.



External tags on the bass. If you see an external green or pink spaghetti tag **please** return the fish to the water. These bass are being used to track the movements of the fish and understand population characteristics.