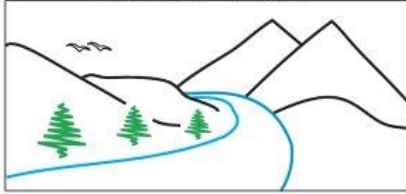


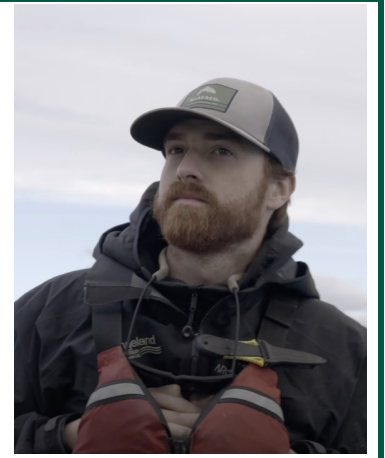
Presented By: UNBC's Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute

NRESi



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PUBLIC PRESENTATION



Thermal Habitat Across Multiple Scales: Investigating Thermal Regimes of the Upper Peace River Basin

Guest Presenter: Bryce O'Connor

Fisheries Biologist
Chu Cho Environmental



**Wednesday
March 1, 2023**

12:00 pm

Online

**Free
Pre-registration
required**

www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/colloquium-webcasts

Presentation Summary:

Thermal habitat availability has been identified as a limiting factor for Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) in the Williston Reservoir Watershed. In a century dominated by climate change, the implications of increased magnitude and variability in water temperatures are of great concern for species fragmented in isolated watersheds and migratory species which depend on disparate habitats. Conservation status assessments of endemic species in the Upper Peace River Basin require a contemporary approach to monitoring and modeling freshwater thermal habitat availability. To this end, we aim to investigate and document patterns in water temperature and their drivers across a range of temporal and spatial scales. By utilizing innovative field techniques, leveraging existing monitoring data, and integrating satellite remote sensing archives into a water temperature modelling framework this project will improve the understanding of thermal habitat availability within the Upper Peace River Basin. One year of data collection has been completed, and preliminary results for this project and other associated projects in the region will be presented.

Bryce O'Connor is a Fisheries Biologist at Chu Cho Environmental which is owned by Tsay Keh Dene First Nation. His research interests include the distribution and abundance of aquatic species and their habitat associations - especially thermal habitat and its availability across large river systems. For the Thermal Regimes project, Chu Cho Environmental has partnered with Dr. Siraj Ul Islam and Dr. Eduardo Martins at UNBC and Alexandre Bevington of the BC Ministry of Forests Omineca Region Research Hydrology Group with funding from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Peace Region.

All are welcome to participate. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. The Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia, together with its partners, invite those with interest in learning more about Thermal Regimes of the Upper Peace River Basin to participate in this online presentation and discussion.

This event is funded by the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). The FWCP is a partnership between BC Hydro, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, First Nations, Public Stakeholders and the Province of BC, to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by existing BC Hydro dams.

