

MEDIA RELEASE

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Shuswap Watershed Council releases 2020 water quality summary report

The Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) has just released a summary report about recent water quality monitoring throughout the watershed.

“I’m very pleased to announce that our fifth annual water quality summary report is available,” says Paul Demenok, SWC Chair and CSRD Director for Area C - South Shuswap. “We know that residents and visitors to the Shuswap are very interested in water quality, and appreciate receiving these reports.”

The report covers water quality in the large lakes and at swimming beaches. It also explains water quality concerns in the region such as algal blooms and the threat that aquatic invasive species pose to the Shuswap.

“From a human perspective and our enjoyment of the lakes for swimming, the water quality in the Shuswap is very good,” explains Erin Vieira, SWC program manager. “This is demonstrated by the beach monitoring programs overseen by Interior Health and First Nations Health Authority. Out of 196 water quality samples collected from nine beaches in 2020, 195 had acceptable results.”

The report also summarizes results of the SWC’s inaugural grant program to support improved nutrient management on Shuswap-area farms. By implementing new farm practices to retain nutrients and keep them from washing off or leaching out of soil into nearby water courses, a win-win situation is created for farms and for the region’s water quality.

The report also draws attention to another year of monitoring the Shuswap watershed for invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels, a program carried out by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society with financial support from the SWC. The Shuswap continues to be free of invasive mussels. However, invasive freshwater clams were found at Sunnybrae and Canoe, and the report offers several recommendations to prevent furthering the spread of the clams; these same preventative measures will also help keep invasive mussels out of BC.

See [Invasive clams discovered in Salmon Arm of Shuswap Lake](#).



“Watercraft owners must always clean, drain, and dry their watercraft when they move it out of a lake or river. Additionally, anyone visiting or returning to BC with a watercraft needs to stop at watercraft inspection stations along their travel route,” Vieira adds.

The report can be found on the SWC’s website, www.shuswapwater.ca. Print copies of the report will soon be available from municipal, First Nations, and regional government administrative offices and at library branches across the Shuswap.

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About: The Shuswap Watershed Council is a watershed-based partnership organization that works on water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap.

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