

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Shuswap Watershed Council releases 2018 water quality report

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

“I’m very pleased to announce the availability of this third annual water quality report,” says Paul Demenok, SWC Chair and CSRD Director for Area C – South Shuswap. “We know that water quality in the Shuswap watershed is a key concern for residents. In view of this, a primary objective for the Shuswap Watershed Council is to report water monitoring results annually. I encourage all residents to become familiar with it.”

The report covers water quality in the large lakes and rivers, at swimming beaches, and it explains important water quality issues in the region such as invasive mussels and algal blooms.

“From a human perspective and our enjoyment of the lakes and beaches, the water quality here in the Shuswap is very good. This is indicated by Interior Health’s beach monitoring program, which had about 97% acceptable results in 2018,” explains Erin Vieira, program manager for the SWC.

[The report comes just after a water quality advisory was issued for three beaches, including Sandy Point, Pierre’s Point, and Glen Echo campgrounds.](#) Water quality monitoring at these sites has indicated unsafe levels of *E. coli* contamination.

“Although these types of water quality events are unfortunate, it does demonstrate that popular swimming beaches are being frequently monitored and that when an issue arises a public notice is posted,” adds Vieira.

Some good news reported in the new water quality summary is that the Shuswap watershed, and all of BC, continues to be free of invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels. However, the threat of an invasion persists. “Zebra and quagga mussels could cause devastation to our lakes,” Vieira says. “The most important preventative measure is for watercraft owners to stop at inspection stations as they pass them in their travels.” This is because Zebra and Quagga Mussels move from one lake to another attached on watercraft, trailers, and fishing gear. Inspection and decontamination is the only certain way to eliminate the risk. “Watercraft inspection isn’t just a recommendation, it’s the law,” Vieira adds.


The report can be found on the SWC’s website www.shuswapwater.ca.


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



c/o 200A – 1383 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC V2C 6K7

 /ShuswapWater

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www.shuswapwater.ca

Contact: For more information, please contact Erin Vieira or Mike Simpson c/o the Fraser Basin Council in Kamloops at 250 314-9660.