

CWSF 2018 - Ottawa, Ontario



Malika Sharma

Barcoding Fish: Fishing the Fraud

Challenge: Discovery

Category: Intermediate

Region: Cariboo Mainline

City: Kamloops, BC

School: St Ann's Academy

Abstract: Fish food fraud is a growing global problem and is impossible to identify just by examining fish for physical signs. Using DNA barcoding; a taxonomic and molecular method that uses a section of DNA to identify it as belonging to a particular species, I investigated if fish consumed by the citizen of Kamloops, BC are subject to fraud.

Biography

Hi! My name is Malika Sharma and I am in Grade 9 at St. Ann's Academy, Kamloops, BC. This is my sixth time participating in a regional science fair, and my second time in CWSF. This year at the Cariboo Mainline Regional Science Fair (CMRSF), I won a gold medal, the Society for Canadian Women In Sciences and Technology (SCWIST) award, and the Genome BC award. I also have tons of hobbies. I enjoy playing the guitar, skating, singing, dancing, reading, swimming, going hiking, and checking things off my bucket list! I plan to study medicine in university. I was inspired to do this project after listening on the radio about the growing problem of food fraud globally. I got intrigued to know how can this global issue can be resolved. I learned that the biggest challenge is to find out if the food is authentic and DNA barcoding may be a way to solve it. I love science because there are endless possibilities and would like to encourage other students to participate in fairs because it is a great learning experience!