

CWSF 2019 - Fredericton, New Brunswick



Hollis Mattson

Underwater Soundscape

Challenge: Environment

Category: Junior

Region: Northern British Columbia

City: Dawson Creek, BC

School: Devereaux Elementary

Abstract: I was curious to find out if industrial activity in northeastern British Columbia was affecting the noise level underwater. Using an underwater microphone I found that out that industrial sites were significantly louder than non-industrial sites and could be affecting fish communication and/or behaviour. In the future I would like to get more advanced equipment to record fish noise and test their sensitivity to sound.

Biography

My name is Hollis Mattson. I am 12 years old and in grade seven. I attend Devereaux Elementary school in Arras, B.C. Some of my many hobbies are dance, basketball, swimming, and traveling. I am interested in marine biology. I was really excited and honoured to receive the top junior award (grade 7-8) at the Northern B.C Regional Science Fair this year. I also received the B.C Nature Award for an outstanding natural history project. I was inspired to do my under-water sound scape project because of my interest in whales. I have been reading recently on how many more strandings there has been in the past couple of years because of environmental stresses, such as anthropogenic noise. I don't live near the ocean, so I was wondering if this could also be happening with our fresh water species in Northern B.C. In further research I would like to start recording the sounds of my local fish such as the Northern Pike. For people interested in doing a science project I would say to always be confident and interested in what you want to do, and if your project goes further it could shape your future entirely.

Awards

Value

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| Excellence Award - Junior - Silver Medal Sponsor: Youth Science Canada | |
| Western University Scholarship Silver Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University | \$2 000 |
| Total | \$2 000 |