

David Weber

Graduation Year: Senior

College: Science

Major(s): Biological Sciences

Minors(s): N/A

Scholar Group Membership: N/A

Did you received other funding for this project?: College of Science; ECI

Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding? No

More details on CUSE funding assistance?

Project Title: Ecological Effects of Non-native Pacific Salmon and Brown Trout on Native Brook Trout in Great Lakes Tributaries

Project Location: University of Notre Dame

ND Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dominic Chaloner

Project Type: Research

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Prepare for graduate school (MA or PhD), Prepare for national fellowships, Career discernment and/or preparation

Did your funded experience help you:

[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]: Very Much

[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]: Very Much

[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]: Very Much

[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]: Very Much

[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:Very Much

Tell us about your experience.

Through funding obtained from CUSE, I was able to conduct a mercury analysis on experimental fish used in a mesocosm experiment. This information allowed me to assess the extent to which resident fish in the Great Lakes region consume available salmon material. Additionally, this information allowed me to assess for the effect of salmon tissue consumption on the mercury concentrations of stream-resident fish. The mercury analysis was undertaken at the Center for Environmental Science and Technology.

Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.

Through the mercury analysis, I was able to gain experience in conducting laboratory-based procedures. I have become familiar with the protocol for assessing the mercury concentration of tissue samples, and I furthered my knowledge of the potential effects of introduced species on stream-resident fish. Furthermore, the information gained from the mercury analysis enhances our understanding of the role of Pacific salmon as contaminant transporters in the Great Lakes region.

