

How does climate change impact fish populations?

Master project, 30-45 credits in ecology at SLU-aqua
Summer 2018 (start in April or August)

Why?

Climate change has not only made lakes warmer, but also darker as a result of increased input of terrestrially derived organic material ('browning'). Browning can influence fish negatively through two pathways. First, it can have a direct negative effect on fish relying on vision for foraging. Second, it can limit primary production, and through bottom-up processes decrease the amount of prey available for fish. This can decrease growth rate, survival and biomass production of fish in lakes. However, we do not know how competition between species may modify these responses.

How?

In freshwater mesocosm experiments you will test how competition may modify perch and roach responses to browning. The results will inform us about growth and survival responses of these two species to further climate change, and how future climate change will affect the interaction between these species.

Also other studies addressing similar questions about browning effects on fish are possible (e.g. using available test-fishing data).

Location?

SLU aqua in Drottningholm/Öregrund/Ultuna

Interested? Contact us:

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Have a look at what we do: @Fishinfoodwebs on Instagram

