

The coordinates for my sampling location "Unnamed Creek," a small tributary of the Dowagiac River are: 41.861421, -86.242612. This is a very small tributary that appears to be critical nursery habitat for Steelhead, Chinook, and Coho. This tributary needs to be protected. While the mainstream of the Dowagiac provides good spawning habitat, this tributary provides the much needed protection from predation. Additionally, based on otolith chemical analysis for this site, all Steelhead sampled were classified as wild in origin. I analyzed 10 YOY (age-0s) and 10 age-1s. Steelhead from this site in 2015. Otolith signatures are unique between Wolf Lake hatchery and wild conspecifics for this site allowing for accurate classification. I did not analyze otoliths for Chinook or Coho, only Steelhead.

Nicole M. Watson

Graduate Research Assistant

Central Michigan University

Department of Biology

nicolemwatson0@gmail.com