

Western Illinois University
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Abstract

Recorded Scholarly Presentation

Major: Environmental Biology, Zoology

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Heavy Metal Contamination in American Bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) in Nahant Marsh

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Nahant Marsh is located in Davenport, Iowa adjacent to the Mississippi River. Nahant Marsh is a former waterfowl hunting club and as a result of this history, the site was contaminated with heavy metals. These heavy metals were found in the water and the soils/sediments. This site became a Superfund project and was remediated in 1999. Today, this site operates as the Nahant Marsh Environmental Education Center. Frogs are the lowest order of vertebrate located in Nahant Marsh. Therefore, the assessment of heavy metal contamination in secondary consumers can be measured. If heavy metals are found in the frogs in this area, this is evidence that heavy metals have entered the food chain. Data on the concentrations of heavy metals in frogs will be used to provide a comprehensive characterization of the extent of distribution and dynamics of heavy metals in the Nahant Marsh biota.