

## Eawag Seminar Invitation

# Protecting and restoring freshwater biodiversity: Evidence, Engagement and Emotion

Speaker

**Dr Steven J. Cooke, Canadian Centre for Evidence-Based Conservation, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada**

When

**December 08, 2022, 16.00 – 17.00, CET**

Where

**Eawag Dübendorf, room FC C20 and online via Zoom.**

**Please contact [seminars@eawag.ch](mailto:seminars@eawag.ch) for access details to join online**

Abstract

Freshwater ecosystems face many threats and their constituent biodiversity have suffered great losses. Therefore, there is an urgency to protecting and restoring freshwater biodiversity. Policies and practices intended to benefit freshwater biodiversity need to be based on robust evidence and actually deliver on their promise. Evidence comes in various forms spanning western science, Indigenous ways of knowing, and stakeholder knowledge, all of which are valid and need to be considered. Although practitioners, decision-makers and scientists are often viewed as key players in conservation initiatives there is need for broader engagement given the gravity of the task at hand. Beyond evidence, there is also need to generate public and political will. Communicating the value of freshwater biodiversity to diverse publics and establishing emotional connections (beyond despair) will be critical for protecting and restoring freshwater biodiversity.