

FRESHWATER MEGAFISH: THE UNSEEN MONSTERS THAT SHARE OUR LAKES AND RIVERS

PRESENTATION BY ZEB HOGAN (UNR) & BRANT ALLEN (UC DAVIS)



Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2009
Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Lecture begins promptly at 6:00 p.m.
Cost: \$5 donation requested. No-Host Bar.
Location: Assembly Rooms 139 & 141,
Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences
291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village, Nevada
(on the campus of Sierra Nevada College)

Dr. Zeb Hogan (left) at the University of Nevada Reno is studying megafish as part of a National Geographic sponsored project. The project goals are to assess the conservation status of megafish in the face of habitat degradation and raise public awareness of the fish as a whole. Hogan earned an undergraduate degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in ecology at UC Davis.

Brant Allen (right) has been working as a fisheries research biologist with the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center for over twenty years. He has worked with fish around the world including the western United States, Europe, Antarctica, Papua New Guinea, Southeast Asia, and Mongolia.

Fresh water is arguably the most precious resource on earth... and the most in peril. The multiple demands for fresh water are tremendous; drinking water, irrigation, power, transportation and habitat for many different species. Diminishing freshwater habitats are also home to several species of “megafishes,” behemoths that exceed 2 meters in length (6 ft) or 100 kilograms (200 lbs).

The MegaFishes Project represents the first worldwide attempt to document and protect the planet’s freshwater giants. “Megafishes” are disappearing at an alarming rate. It is now a race against the clock to protect and document the aquatic life in these water systems. If we continue to do nothing, vulnerable species will become scarce, the opportunity for study may soon be lost, and the fish and people that depend on the water will face increased adversity.