

## **OVERVIEW--STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA** **BULL TROUT/DOLLY VARDEN STOCKS**

### **DUNGENESS/GRAY WOLF** **UPPER DUNGENESS** **LOWER ELWHA** **UPPER ELWHA**

#### **STOCK DEFINITION AND ORIGIN**

In the Strait of Juan de Fuca, four stocks of bull trout/Dolly Varden have been tentatively identified: Upper Dungeness River, Dungeness/Gray Wolf, Lower Elwha River, and Upper Elwha River. The stocks are considered separate based on the geographic distribution of their spawning populations. One 660 mm char was observed about one mile above Highway 101 in the anadromous zone in the late 1980s by a WDFW biologist during a snorkel survey to identify steelhead parr habitat (Hal Beecher, WDFW, personal communication). Two presence/absence day time snorkel surveys were conducted by WDFW biologists in the resident fish zone at RM 6.0 and above the water diversion structure at RM 7.0 in October 1996. A 100-meter section was surveyed at each location. No bull trout/Dolly Varden were observed, although rainbow trout of various sizes were seen at both locations. WDFW biologists believe that the one reported bull trout/Dolly Varden in Morse Creek was probably a stray from the Elwha or Dungeness rivers and that no distinct stock exists in Morse Creek .

Run timing and spawning timing are unknown at this time.

Using the Haas (1988) bull trout/Dolly Varden species differentiation formula, both bull trout and Dolly Varden have been identified in the Dungeness and upper Elwha rivers. See individual stock reports for more specific information.

#### **STOCK STATUS**

The status of the Dungeness/Gray Wolf, Lower Elwha and Upper Elwha stocks is Unknown. The Dungeness is tentatively considered Healthy.

Plans for the summer of 1997 are to collect more population data and samples for genetic analysis in the Dungeness River.

Information for the Lower Elwha stock includes incidental trap counts and angler reports.

## **STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA -- LOWER ELWHA** **BULL TROUT/DOLLY VARDEN**

### **STOCK DEFINITION AND ORIGIN**

Bull trout/Dolly Varden in the lower Elwha River (below the hydropower dams) have been identified as a distinct stock based on their geographic distribution. Anglers have reported hooking bull trout/Dolly Varden in the lower river over the years. The population in the lower river is thought to be anadromous.

Spawn timing and locations are unknown.

Lower Elwha bull trout/Dolly Varden are native and are maintained by wild production.

### **STOCK STATUS**

The stock status is Unknown. There is insufficient information to assign stock status with confidence.

Two types of data are available: angler reports and hatchery rack returns. The Lower Elwha Tribe reports that they occasionally see a few bull trout/Dolly Varden in tribal fisheries over the years (Mike McHenry, Lower Elwha Fisheries, personal communication). Bull trout/Dolly Varden are rarely seen the tribe's hatchery trap with coho. One or two bull trout/Dolly Varden 300 mm to 380 mm long have been seen each year in the WDFW chinook rearing channel since 1983 (Greg Travers, WDFW, personal communication).

### **FACTORS AFFECTING PRODUCTION**

**Habitat**--Two dams on the Elwha River not only block access of anadromous fish to the upper watershed but also significantly limit gravel recruitment, which is necessary for spawning, to the lower watershed.

**Harvest Management**--The lower Elwha River is closed to fishing for bull trout/Dolly Varden. There may be some mortality from hook and release of bull trout/Dolly Varden in fisheries targeting other species.

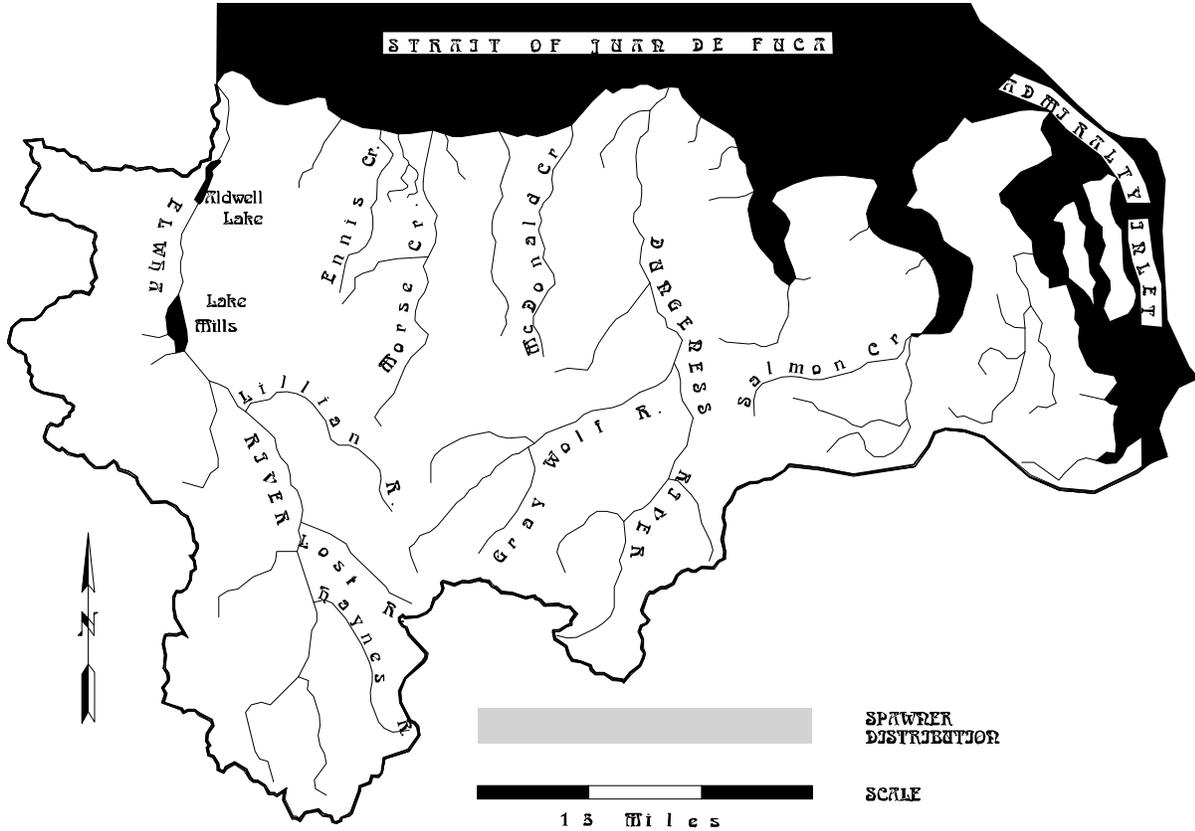
**Hatchery**--Hatchery-origin chinook and coho are released annually into the lower Elwha River. Interactions between lower Elwha bull trout/Dolly Varden and hatchery-origin salmonids have not been examined.

# STOCK DEFINITION PROFILE for Lower Elwha Bull Trout/Dolly Varden

## SPAWNER DISTRIBUTION

DISTINCT? - Yes

Spawner distribution is distinct for this stock, but specific spawning locations are unknown



## TIMING

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	DISTINCT?
												Unknown

Spawn timing is unknown for this stock.

## BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

DISTINCT? - Unknown

# STOCK STATUS PROFILE for Lower Elwha Bull Trout/Dolly Varden

## STOCK ASSESSMENT

DATA QUALITY -----> No Data

Return Years	NO DATA			
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- 73
- 74
- 75
- 76
- 77
- 78
- 79
- 80
- 81
- 82
- 83
- 84
- 85
- 86
- 87
- 88
- 89
- 90
- 91
- 92
- 93
- 94
- 95
- 96
- 97

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## AVERAGE RUNSIZE DISTRIBUTION

Data not available.

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## STOCK SUMMARY

Stock Origin  
***Native***

Production Type  
***Wild***

Stock Distinction  
***Distribution***

Stock Status  
***Unknown***

Screening Criteria