

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 -- UPPER ELWHA BULL TROUT

In the 1998 inventory, this stock was called a bull trout/Dolly Varden stock. Subsequent genetic analysis of a sample collected in the upper Elwha watershed in 1997 (N = 58) indicated that all of the fish in the sample were bull trout.

STOCK DEFINITION AND ORIGIN

Bull trout in the upper Elwha River (above the hydropower dams) have been identified as a distinct stock based on their geographic distribution. Anglers have reported hooking native char in both reservoirs and in the river between the reservoirs as well as in the river above the upper reservoir. We believe that fluvial, adfluvial and resident life history forms of bull trout are present in the upper Elwha.

Spawn timing and locations are unknown.

Upper Elwha bull trout 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.

Limited electrofishing, hook and line sampling and creel census data are available. The Olympic National Park staff carried out electrofishing and hook and line sampling. They collected four fish between river miles 27 and 35 on the upper Elwha (11 miles above Lake Mills) in May 1992. The Haas (1988) bull trout/Dolly Varden species differentiation formula measurements showed all four to be bull trout. Six fish were collected in the same stretch of river in 1993. Five were measured as bull trout, one as Dolly Varden. In September 1995, three fish were taken at RM 39. All measured as bull trout (Meyer 1995) and were subsequently confirmed as bull trout by genetic analysis (Leary and Allendorf 1996).

WDFW conducted a creel census on the Elwha River in and between both reservoirs in 1981 and 1982. Bull trout were reportedly caught in low numbers at that time (Collins 1983). No species determination was made at that time.

FACTORS AFFECTING PRODUCTION

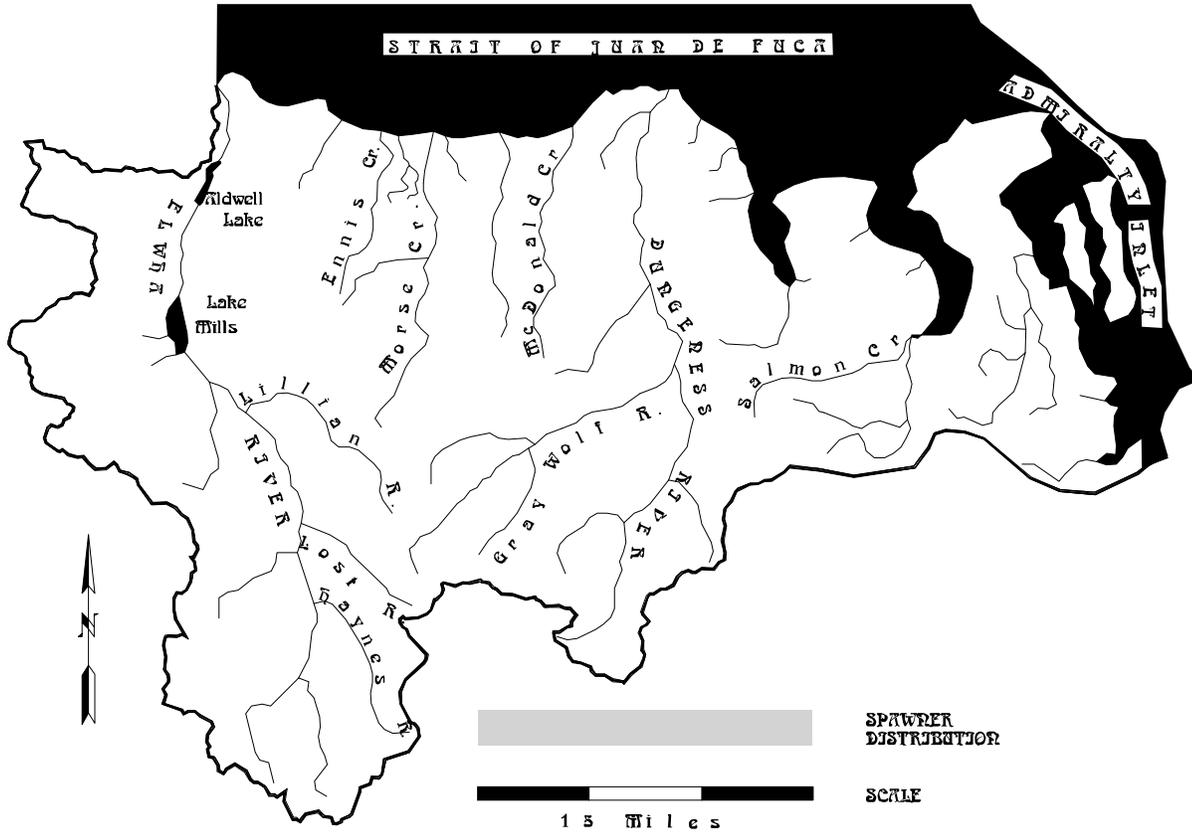
Habitat--Most of the upper Elwha River above the dams is within the Olympic National Park boundaries (with the exception of the lower two miles just above Lake Aldwell).

STOCK DEFINITION PROFILE for Upper Elwha Bull Trout

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 Upper Elwha Bull Trout

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

AVERAGE RUNSIZE DISTRIBUTION

Data not available.

STOCK SUMMARY

Stock Origin

Native

Production Type

Wild

Stock Distinction

Distribution

Stock Status

Unknown

Screening Criteria

The Park provides steep-gradient habitat in excellent condition and well-suited for bull trout.

Harvest Management--The upper Elwha River is closed to fishing for bull trout/Dolly Varden. The Olympic National Park has catch-and-release regulations for bull trout/Dolly Varden in all Park waters. There may be some mortality from hook and release of bull trout/Dolly Varden in fisheries targeting other species.

Hatchery--Introduced brook trout have been reported in creel checks in the upper Elwha. We do not know if hybridization has occurred between them and bull trout/Dolly Varden. If it has, we would have concerns about the genetic integrity of the stock. Other interactions between brook trout and bull trout/Dolly Varden also have not been examined.