

HOH -- HOH BULL TROUT

In the 1998 inventory, this stock was called a bull trout/Dolly Varden stock. Subsequent genetic analysis of samples collected in 1998 (N = 73 in the mainstem Hoh and N = 45 in the South Fork) indicated that all fish both samples were bull trout.

STOCK DEFINITION AND ORIGIN

Bull trout in the Hoh River have been identified as a distinct stock based on their geographic distribution. They have been caught in the anadromous zone for many years and have been observed during snorkel surveys in recent years. We believe that there are resident and anadromous life history forms in the Hoh River.

Spawn timing and locations are unknown.

Hoh 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.

No quantitative harvest data are available for this stock. However, there are many reports of native char being caught on hook and line gear historically (Mongillo 1993). Olympic National Park (ONP) staff snorkeled a 1.8-mile section of the mainstem Hoh River from 1.4 miles above Lewis Meadow to the Olympus Ranger Station in October, 1994. A total of nine native char adults were observed. ONP staff have also observed native char during snorkel surveys of an eleven-mile long section of the South Fork Hoh from just below Slate Creek to the confluence with the mainstem Hoh in October 1994 and 1995. A total of 41 adults were observed in 1994 and 31 in 1995. Data quality is good.

The Hoh River may have the largest population of bull trout on the Washington Coast (Mongillo 1993). Interviews with angler and WDFW employees suggest that the Hoh River population was greatly reduced from 1982 to 1992. The reasons for this decline are unknown, however, Mongillo (1992) reported that local anglers believed overfishing contributed to the decline. He also suggested that increased logging during that time period may cause future habitat problems.

FACTORS AFFECTING PRODUCTION

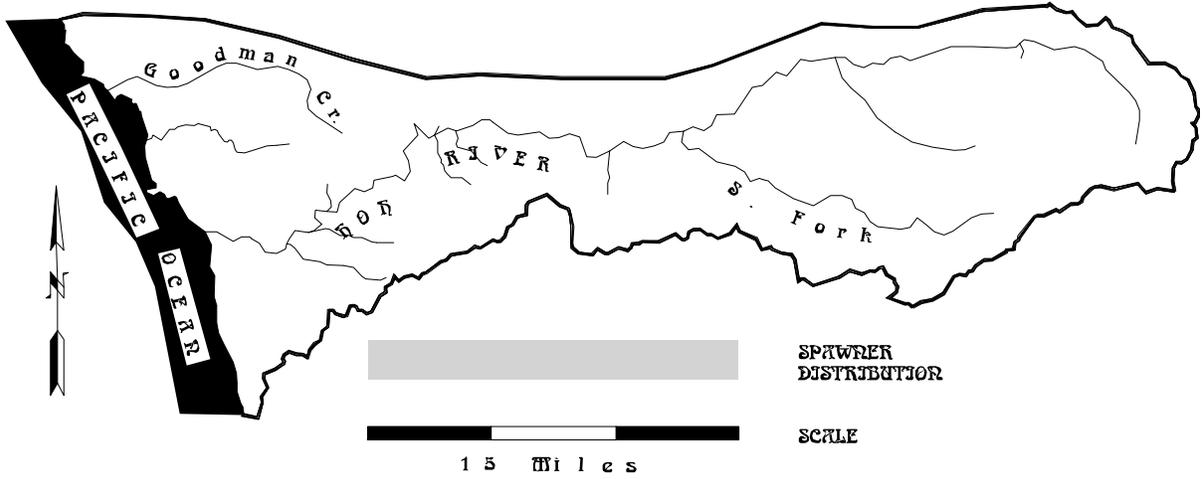
Habitat--The Hoh River drainage has been heavily logged and because of its steepness, which results in slope instability, high silt loads have reduced water quality.

STOCK DEFINITION PROFILE for Hoh 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 Hoh Bull Trout

STOCK ASSESSMENT

DATA QUALITY -----> Good

Return Years	FW PROD Adult Count	FW PROD Adult Count		
73				
74				
75				
76				
77				
78				
79				
80				
81				
82				
83				
84				
85				
86				
87				
88				
89				
90				
91				
92				
93				
94	9	41		
95		31		
96				
97				

Column 1: Mainstem Hoh snorkel survey.
 Column 2: South Fork Hoh snorkel survey.

AVERAGE RUNSIZE DISTRIBUTION

Data not available.

STOCK SUMMARY

Stock Origin
Native

Production Type
Wild

Stock Distinction
Distribution

Stock Status
Unknown

Screening Criteria

In the mainstem and several tributaries, loss of riparian vegetation raises summer low-flow water temperatures above those considered optimum for salmonids. Lack of large woody debris in the watershed can result in loss of deep pools which provide holding and hiding cover for fish. The upper mainstem and South Fork are within the Olympic National Park where the habitat is in excellent condition.

The lower South Fork Hoh River drainage has been degraded by logging on steep slopes which has led to bank erosion, some scouring of the South Fork, and loss of large woody debris.

Harvest Management--The Hoh River is closed to fishing for native char. The Olympic National Park has catch-and-release regulations for native char in all park waters. There may be some mortality from hook and release in fisheries targeting other species.

Hatchery--Interactions with hatchery-origin salmonids have not been examined.