

Appendix 39

Historic Records of Bull Trout Occurrence in the North and Middle Forks of the Flathead River and Stillwater River

Excerpted from Flathead River Drainage Bull Trout Status Report

Evermann (1892) reported that, in 1891, bull trout in Flathead Lake were common and were caught at certain seasons in considerable numbers by trolling.

The U.S. Forest Service reported that, in 1937-1938, bull trout were present in Big, Hay, Whale, Moose, Red Meadow, and Coal creeks in the North Fork Sheep, Bear, Java, Deerlick, Morrison, Lodgepole, Dolly Varden, Schafer, Granite, Long, Strawberry, and Bowl creeks in the Middle Fork; and Grifftin, Logan, and Good creeks in the Stillwater drainage (Flathead National Forest 1948).

Schaeffer (1940) reported that Kutenai Indians used the North Fork of the Flathead as a fishing area for both trout and char [bull trout]. Schultz (1941), in his report on fishes of Glacier National Park, reported bull trout in Kintla Lake, Upper Kintla Lake, Indian (Oil) Lake (currently named Akokala Lake), Bowman Creek, Quartz Creek, Cerulean Lake, Logging Lake, Arrow Lake, the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, McDonald Creek, McDonald Lake, Fish Creek, Coal Creek, Lincoln Lake, Harrison Lake, Park Creek, Lake Isabel, Upper Isabel Lake, and Ole Creek. Holloway (1945) reported bull trout in Bowman Creek, Kintla Creek, and the North Fork Flathead River.

Block (1955) collected bull trout in Trail Creek, Red Meadow Creek, Whale Creek, Big Creek, Hallowat Creek, Coal Creek, Kishenehn Creek, the North Fork of the Flathead River, Bowman Creek, and the lower Flathead River. Fisheries sampling conducted in 1957 by the Montana Fish and Game Department found bull trout in Bear Creek, Vinegar Creek, Granite Creek, Long Creek, and Twenty-five Mile Creek (Stefanich 1958).

Kinnie (1960) recorded bull trout in Lincoln Creek, Harrison Creek, Harrison Lake, McDonald Creek, Nyack Creek, and Ole Creek. Hansel (1961) sampled the upper Stillwater River drainage (Fitzsimmons, Good, Sunday, and Logan Creeks) and found bull trout among the species present, Peters (1964) reported bull trout age and growth data from fish collected in Bear Creek and Moose Creek, Flathead River drainage, in 1952. However, it is possible that the Moose Creek record is an error. Fish were collected from the Moose Creek that is located in the Bitterroot drainage during 1952 and it may be fish from this Moose Creek that Peters aged. Age and growth data for bull trout collected from Frozen Lake and Upper White Lake, collected in 1957, is also published in Peters (1964).

Morton (1968), in his review of fisheries management in Glacier Park, reported bull trout in Akokala Lake, Arrow Lake, Bowman Creek, Bowman Lake, Kintla Creek, Upper Kintla Lake, Kintla Lake, Logging Creek, Logging Lake, Trout Lake, North Fork Flathead River, Lower Quartz Lake, Middle Quartz Lake, Upper Quartz Lake, Coal Creek, Ole Creek, Park Creek, Lake Isabel, Lower Isabel Lake, Harrison Lake, Nyack Creek, Harrison Creek, Lincoln Lake, Lake Ellen Wilson, McDonald Creek, McDonald

Lake, Howe Creek, Fish Lake, Snyder Creek, Avalanche Lake, and the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. Morton's report was not a field survey but, rather, a synthesis of existing published and unpublished information. References to bull trout in Fish Lake, Avalanche Lake, and Lake Ellen Wilson are now believed to have been in error (Leo Marnell, National Biological Survey, West Glacier, Mt., personal communication 1995).