

BULL TROUT IN THE PEACE REGION

Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), a member of the Salmonid family, is widely distributed in B.C. The species has been blue-listed by the Conservation Data Centre www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc, which means numbers are declining throughout their global range. While there are numerous healthy bull trout populations in the Peace Region, they are still vulnerable to over-harvest and habitat degradation, with spawning fish being particularly at risk.

To address these issues, the Region has relied on a combination of restrictive angling regulations and the establishment of Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) to conserve high value habitat and spawning areas. A total of seven bull trout WHAs have been established and work is being undertaken to determine the need for additional ones.

Intensive monitoring and telemetry (tagging) studies of bull trout have revealed that these fish undertake annual migrations of up to 275 km. One of the tagged fish was recaptured in the Mackenzie River, N.W.T., a distance of about 1,300 km!

Ongoing monitoring has indicated increasing numbers of spawning bull trout in key Peace Region populations – a result of the combination of effective angling regulations and successful habitat protection.

For further information on bull trout in the Peace Region, contact the Fish and Wildlife Regional Office in Fort St. John (see page Region 7B-1).

Some bull trout have been tagged at the base of the dorsal fin with thin plastic tags that have a number imprinted. If you catch one of these fish please note the tag number and phone the Regional Office in Fort St. John.



Releasing a tagged bull trout.

📷 Brian Jantz



Female bull trout in spawning condition.

📷 Traci Jensen