



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Creston Fish and Wildlife Center
780 Creston Hatchery Road
Kalispell, Montana 59901

February 3, 1995

Brace Hayden
Natural Resources Branch
Glacier National Park
West Glacier, MT 59936

Dear Mr. Hayden:

As part of a study being conducted for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine the effects the operation and maintenance of the St. Mary Storage Unit has on area fisheries, the Fish and Wildlife Service sampled the fisheries of Sherburne Lake and Swiftcurrent Creek below Swiftcurrent Falls in Glacier National Park.

On June 15, 1994, with Sherburne Lake at maximum pool, five sinking, multimesh experimental gill nets (38 meters long and 1.8 meters tall) were set in the lake and fished overnight for 14 hours. The following morning the nets were picked and all fish were weighed, measured and identified. Table 1 gives information on the 153 fish captured.

Table 1. Sherburne Lake - maximum pool

SPECIES	NUMBER	AVERAGE WEIGHT (GRAMS)	AVERAGE LENGTH (CENTIMETERS)
Northern pike	5	4688.4	87.5
Longnose sucker	67	976.7	46.9
Mountain whitefish	81	249.2	31.8

The largest fish captured was a northern pike weighing 7,672 grams and 108.5 centimeters long. Surface water temperature was 14.4° C.

On September 20, 1994, 50 meters of Swiftcurrent Creek 525 meters downstream of Swiftcurrent Falls was electrofished with a generator-powered backpack shocker. Table 2 gives information on the 290 fish captured.

Table 2. Swiftcurrent Creek

SPECIES	NUMBER	AVERAGE WEIGHT (GRAMS)	AVERAGE LENGTH (CENTIMETERS)
Mountain whitefish	28	38.4	16.9
Burbot	18	63.8	16.4
Longnose sucker	10	18.5	12.2
Longnose dace	10	4.8	8.8
Northern pike	7	42.9	19.9
Brook trout	5	45.2	14.6

Also captured were 206 mottled sculpins, none were weighed or measured. Stream temperature was 12.2°

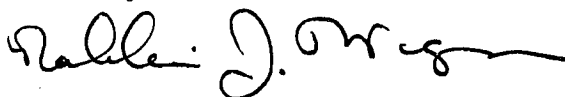
On September 21, 1994, with Sherburne Lake at minimum pool, two sinking, multimesh experimental gill nets (38 meters long and 1.8 meters tall) were set in the lake and fished overnight for 13.5 hours. The following morning the nets were picked and all fish were weighed, measured and identified. Table 3 gives information on the 91 fish captured.

Table 3. Sherburne Lake - minimum pool

SPECIES	NUMBER	AVERAGE WEIGHT (GRAMS)	AVERAGE LENGTH (CENTIMETERS)
Mountain whitefish	39	296.4	33.5
Longnose sucker	33	984.8	45.1
Kokanee salmon	14	200.9	27.4
Northern pike	3	3898.0	83.1
Burbot	2	453.0	41.7

The kokanee salmon captured appeared to represent two age-classes with ten of the fish markedly larger than the other four and in spawning condition. Surface water temperature was 12.8° C.

Sincerely,



Robbin Wagner,
Fisheries Biologist

cc: Bill Michels, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, MT 59936
Dallas Koehn, Glacier National Park, St. Mary, MT 59417