

29 January 1996



Chris Hunter, Chief
Special Projects Bureau, Fisheries Division
Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 East Sixth Ave
Helena, MT 59620

re: scientific collection permit report and renewal

RECEIVED

FEB 1 - 1996

FISHERIES DIV.
DEPT. FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Mr. Hunter:

Enclosed is a report of all fishes collected in Montana in 1995 under permit no. 1399. If possible, I would like to renew this permit for the collection of fishes in 1996 under the same provisions specified in my 1995 application. Enclosed is a check for \$5.00.

I identified the fishes listed in the report and the identifications were checked by Dr. Lawrence M. Page. Several of the specimens collected generated some questions. *Catostomus commersoni* is not native to the Columbia R. drainage, however, two juveniles were collected from the Clearwater R., Clark Fork R. drainage, in Missoula Co. I assume this is an introduction.

Secondly, two collections of sculpins were made: one specimen in the Blackfoot River and two specimens in the Clearwater River, Missoula Co. Identification of these specimens was problematic. According to the Fishes of Montana (Brown, 1971), the slimy sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*) is native to and commonly inhabits streams in the Clark Fork drainage. The shorthead sculpin's (*Cottus confusus*) natural range is restricted to the Flathead R. drainage except for one collection identified from the Little Blackfoot River, Clark Fork drainage, Powell Co. The specimens taken from the Blackfoot and Clearwater Rivers were expected to be *C. cognatus* based on this distributional information. However, the 3 specimens key out to *C. confusus* based on one character - all three possess a single row of palatine teeth (with respect to other useful characters, the specimens have 12-13 anal fin rays and pelvic fin ray IV is more like that described for *C. confusus*). According to Brown (1971) palatine teeth are usu. absent in Montana *C. cognatus* or rarely 1 or 2 teeth are present. However, some populations of *C. cognatus* are known to have well developed palatine teeth (e.g. Potomac R. population in Virginia according Jenkins and Burkhead, Freshwater Fishes of Virginia, 1993).

Do populations of *C. cognatus* in the Blackfoot and Clearwater Rivers exhibit palatine teeth? Based on the presence of palatine teeth in the 3 specimens collected, we are inclined to identify them as *C. confusus*. Do you have any records of *C. confusus* from the Blackfoot and/or Clearwater Rivers?

Thank you very much for the opportunity to collect in Montana. Please call me if you have any questions or need any additional information concerning my collections.

sincerely,



Mark H. Sabaj
Collections Manager
Illinois Natural History Survey
(217) 244-4494

INHS FISH COLLECTION RECORDS

1995 Fish Collection Records

This printout is provided with the understanding that the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) is acknowledged in any publications, reports, etc. resulting from the use of the data.

Flathead Lake (Flathead River- Clark Fork River- Columbia River Dr.)

Somers, U.S. Rt. 93, NW corner of lake at Somers Boat Launch

Flathead COUNTY, Montana

Date: 13 June 1995

Remarks: Kalispell Bay

CAT. #	SPECIES	# OF SPECIMENS
INHS 36456	<i>Richardsonius balteatus</i>	10
INHS 36455	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	1

Flathead Lake (Flathead River- Clark Fork River- Columbia River Dr.)

Somers, U.S. Rt. 93, NW corner of lake at Somers Boat Launch, Kalispell Bay

Flathead COUNTY, Montana

Date: 13 June 1995

Remarks: 2 specimens in tank; caught by hook & line and donated by local fishermen

CAT. #	SPECIES	# OF SPECIMENS
INHS 36457	<i>Ptychocheilus oregonensis</i>	7

Blackfoot River (Clark Fork River- Columbia River Dr.)

10 mi E Missoula on St. Rt. 200, Angevin Boat Launch

Missoula COUNTY, Montana

Date: 13 June 1995

Remarks:

CAT. #	SPECIES	# OF SPECIMENS
INHS 36406	<i>Cottus sp. (possibly confusus)</i>	1
INHS 36403	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>	26
INHS 36404	<i>Catostomus macrocheilus</i>	6
INHS 36405	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>	5

JWA 95-76 Clearwater River (Clark Fork River- Columbia River Dr.)

5 mi NE Greenough on Sunset Hill Rd., Clearwater Bridge Boat Launch

Missoula COUNTY, Montana

Date: 13 June 1995

Remarks: at confluence with Blackfoot River

CAT. #	SPECIES	# OF SPECIMENS
INHS 36451	<i>Cottus sp. (possibly confusus)</i>	2

INHS 36447	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>
INHS 36449	<i>Richardsonius balteatus</i>
INHS 36448	<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>
INHS 36450	<i>Catostomus macrocheilus</i>
INHS 36452	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>

20

3

2

3

1

5-6"

- juvenile fish in kind
of tough fish

Union Creek (Blackfoot River- Clark Fork River Dr.)

14 mi E Missoula off St. Rt. 200

Missoula COUNTY, Montana

Date: 13 June 1995

Remarks:

CAT. #	SPECIES	# OF SPECIMENS
INHS 36420	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>	8
INHS 36421	<i>Catostomus macrocheilus</i>	1