

Endangered Species and Spaces

Home
Table of Contents
Introduction
Classification Systems
Mammals
Birds
Amphibians and Reptiles
Freshwater Fishes
Invertebrates
Vascular Plants
Non-Vascular Plants
Plant Communities
Exotic Species
Protected Areas
Summary-Conclusions
Appendix

6.0 Freshwater Fishes

There are currently a number of significant threats to fish diversity in the fresh waters of British Columbia. Some authorities have likened the situation to the "biodiversity crisis" that is associated with catastrophic species loss in the Amazonian rain forests. A similar crisis is evident for fishes indigenous to western North America (Deacon et al., 1979), where economic development (in particular agriculture and sport fishing) conflicts with protection of lesser known species. Decisions affecting economic development in river basins are typically made in the absence of information on the life-forms being affected, and few scientists speak out to encourage public concern for non-economic fishes (A.Peden, 1994).

Please note that when examining the distribution of fish species in this section, the Okanagan, Similkameen and Kettle rivers are part of the Columbia system (flow into the Columbia River), but they are outside the "Columbia Basin" as defined in this report.

Provincially there, are 37 species of freshwater fish that are considered at risk and listed on the provincial **RED** and **BLUE** lists. Six of these are found in the

Columbia Basin (see **Table 7**).

Table 7: Freshwater Fish at Risk in the Columbia Basin

Common Name	Latin Name	Global (G) Prov. (S) Rank	Provincial Listing
Umatilla Dace	<i>Rhynchichthys umatilla</i>	G4,S2	Red
White Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>	G4T?Q,S1	Red
Bull Trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	G3,S3	Blue
Chiselmouth	<i>Acrocheilus alutaceus</i>	G5,S3	Blue
Mottled Sculpin	<i>Cottus Bairdi</i>	G5,S3	Blue
Shorthead Sculpin	<i>Cottus confusus</i>	G5,S3	Blue

Source: CDC Provincial Tracking Lists

Dr. J.D McPhail illustrations of fish in this section are reproduced from *Rare Freshwater Fish of British Columbia, 1998*, by Cannings, S.G. and J. Ptolemy. Used courtesy of Dr. J.D. McPhail, UBC Department of Zoology.

[[Home](#)]