

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Fish and Aquatic Habitat

Report: 27. Site C Fisheries Study – Upper Halfway River Watershed Bull Trout Spawning Survey 2008

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Summary: In the past, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) conducted bull trout spawner surveys in the upper Halfway River tributaries. The objectives of this study were to augment long-term population trend data collected previously by the MoE for the Halfway River bull trout population, to confirm the apparent increase in abundance of the Halfway bull trout population, and to augment baseline spawning run size and redd (*fish egg nest in gravel*) distribution and density data for the upper Halfway River, Cypress Creek, and Needham Creek spawning populations. Bull trout and bull trout redds were enumerated using a combination of ground, aerial, and snorkel surveys.

The total number of bull trout counted and the total number of redds enumerated in the upper Halfway River tributaries were higher than previously observed. The population increased between 2002 and 2005, and this trend appears to have continued in 2008. The location and abundance of redds are reported.