

## ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC

### Fish and Aquatics

**Report:** Peace River Angling and Recreation-Use Creel Survey 2008 – 2009  
**Final Report**

**Prepared by:** LGL Ltd.

**Summary:** The purposes of this study were to interview anglers and recreational users and to survey the Peace River for recreational sites. Surveys of recreational users of the Peace and Pine rivers were focused on quantifying the timing, duration, type and location of their recreational activities with the aim of establishing a baseline for future assessment.

The angler / creel survey included overflights and a statistical analysis of recreational fishery catch rates. The recreational site survey located and described recreational use sites within the Peace River mainstem and any potentially inundated tributaries.

This study focused on the Peace River from Peace Canyon Dam to the Alberta Border (including the lower reaches of tributaries that would be affected by inundation) and parts of the Pine River. The study was conducted from 15 May 2008 to 31 October 2009 for a total of 17.5 months of survey activity. Interviews were conducted at randomly-selected access sites using a randomized work schedule. Over-flights were also conducted on random dates. Flight and interviewing effort were evenly distributed between weekends and weekdays (i.e., 'day types'), and among four geographic river strata. During the study period, 65 over-flights were conducted, and 622 anglers and 5,096 recreational users were interviewed. Data for recreational use, angler effort, catch, and harvests were analyzed to generate monthly, seasonal and annual (12 month) estimates. In generating the annual estimates, data for May - September in each of 2008 and 2009 were combined to generate a pooled estimate for each of those months. Inter-annual variability in recreational use, angler effort and catch was assessed for the June - September summertime period.

The results of the recreational and angling surveys outlined in this report are intended to help inform decisions regarding the potential impacts of the construction and operation of a hydro dam at Site C.