

FISH ASSEMBLAGES OF GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, MONTANA

Michael Meeuwig and Christopher Guy, Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit,
PO Box 173460, Bozeman, MT 59717-3460, mmeeuwig@montana.edu

Wade Fredenberg, Wade_Fredenberg@fws.gov

Little information is available related to the distribution of fishes among lakes within Glacier National Park, Montana. The distribution of sport fishes among park lakes draining into the Flathead River system has received some attention; however, sampling efforts have rarely targeted non-game species. Fish assemblages were sampled in 17 lakes in Glacier

National Park using multiple sampling methods, including experimental gill nets, backpack electrofishing, and hook and line. A total of 5,742 fish comprised of 15 species were sampled, including native and nonnative species that have invaded from downstream sources in the Flathead drainage, e.g., lake trout *Salvelinus namaycush*, or that were intentionally introduced, e.g., brook trout *S. fontinalis*. Fish assemblages varied from monospecific, e.g., Upper Kintla Lake, to lakes containing at least 12 fish species, e.g., Lake McDonald. Use of multiple sampling methods often resulted in detection of more species within a lake than would have been detected using a single method. Additionally, some fish species were detected in waters where they had not previously been reported. These data provide baseline distribution data for park waters draining into the Flathead River system and may be used to develop sampling protocols for monitoring fish species assemblages within Glacier National Park.