

# Native Fish Timeline for the Flathead Basin



Click year in text box for more information.

1850

**1855:** Flathead Indian Reservation created.

1900

**1890:** Introduction of non-native lake trout, Lake Superior Whitefish, and yellow perch begins in Flathead basin.

**1902:** Bigfork Dam is built at outlet of Swan River.

1920

1930

**1938:** Kerr dam near Polson begins operation.

1940

**1953:** Hungry Horse Dam is completed on the South Fork of the Flathead River.

1950

1960

**1968:** MT Dept of Fish Wildlife and Parks begins introducing Mysis shrimp into Ashley, Swan, and Whitefish Lakes upstream from Flathead Lake.

1970

**1980:** Bull Trout population in Flathead basin estimated at 40,000 fish.

**1981:** Mysis shrimp begin to alter the food web of Flathead Lake.

1980

**1998:** Bull trout listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

**1988:** Kokanee population has collapsed with no reported catches.

1990

**1989:** MTFWP and CS&KT write a 5-year management plan for Flathead Lake and river after public scoping.

**1999:** MTFWP and CS&KT develop Flathead Lake and River Fisheries Co-management Plan (2001-2010) after extensive public scoping

**2006:** Northern Pike predation study undertaken on upper Flathead River.

2000

**2006:** Mid-term review of Co-management Plan.

**1998:** Expert panel consisting of 12 fisheries experts assembled to assess effects of lake trout predation on native cutthroat and bull trout.

2010

**2009:** Glacier National Park Quartz Lake lake trout suppression project begins.

**2007:** Glacier National Park proposes lake trout removal effort for Quartz Lake.

**2009:** 3-year lake trout removal effort begins on Swan Lake.

2020

**2009:** Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes introduce Draft Flathead Lake Pilot Project to reduce trout population.

**2009:** MT Fish Wildlife and Parks and Glacier National Park bull trout redd counts show further population declines. Lake trout in Flathead Lake estimated at 400,000 fish. Bull Trout estimated 3,000 in basin.

**2010:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service releases a proposed revision of Critical Habitat for Bull Trout.