

Concern

Teslin Lake population is at risk

Surveys of Teslin Lake trout in 1992 and 1997 indicated that the population was low. This was also confirmed by a recent traditional knowledge survey. A harvest study in 1995 indicated an annual catch of 2,500 kilograms. In 1999, the RRC recommended that the daily limit be one trout. An angler survey in 2000 suggested that the limit (plus poor weather) reduced the harvest to 1,000 kilograms.

Solution Keep track of Teslin Lake trout population

This population is still at significant risk. Lake trout mature slowly in Yukon waters (a two-pound Teslin trout is 18-years-old) and the population needs ongoing intensive management to recover. Commercial fishing is monitored via reports from the licenced operator and guide. About 20 TTC citizens net fish at several locations on Teslin Lake. They focus on whitefish but take trout as well.

Actions

Responsible parties, Time line

RRC
2001/02
2002/03
2003/04
2004/05

Present live release education (including alternate species) to the community
Angler surveys indicate that most fishers are local. Although most local people know about live release, the RRC could invite a presentation on it from the Yukon Fish and Game Association or the Yukon Department of Environment. This could be combined with discussions about targeting other species such as burbot and whitefish. [2001-Tes-AI-22]

TTC
2001/02
2002/03
2003/04
2004/05

Track trout harvest from net fishing
As part of its harvest monitoring program, the TTC plans to include information about net fishing by its citizens. [2001-Tes-AI-23]

YG, TTC
2003/04

Conduct an angler and stock survey
This is a significant program consisting of a creel census, at a cost of about \$10,000, and a stock survey (hundreds of net sets around the lake), at a cost of \$20,000 to \$25,000. Two crews would be working simultaneously on the lake. [2001-Tes-AI-24]

RECOMMENDATION 3

[2001-Tes-Rec-3]

To: the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Re: Live release angling

That the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board should produce printed material on proper live release methods for the Yukon public and visitors.

Live release angling has been the subject of intense public discussion for several years. The conclusion was that the use of live release methods will ultimately be a personal decision and will continue to be practiced by many Yukoners and tourists. Improper live release methods injure fish. This makes it important for people to be aware of proper methods in case they intend to employ live release methods. Printed material for individual anglers and organizations will help people make informed decisions about live release angling.