

**Alberta Conservation Association
2015/16 Project Summary Report**

Project Name: Arctic Grayling Adult Density: Kakwa River

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Project Leader: Brad Hurkett

Introduction

Arctic grayling populations in Alberta have declined drastically because of overharvest and habitat loss, primarily due to human activities. A key component in evaluating the effects of human activities on fish populations and the effectiveness of recovery and management actions is the assessment of individual fish stocks. To ensure consistency in individual fish stock assessments across the province, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) developed a Fish Sustainability Index (FSI) tool. The FSI provides a standardized approach for evaluating existing data and identifying additional data needs that will allow for robust assessments. One of the priority species for which an FSI is being developed is Arctic grayling. The goal of this project was to collect data on adult density and population structure for this species in the Kakwa River watershed to address data deficiencies identified by AEP. However, we had to postpone the project due to record low stream flows during the summer of 2015 that prevented fish sampling. We have rescheduled field surveys for the summer of 2016.