

**Introgression and Status of Indigenous Rainbow trout
(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) stocks in Jasper National Park**

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Since the 1920's, non-native Rainbow trout have been introduced to significant portions of the upper Athabasca River watershed including Jasper National Park (JNP). Along with the Peace watershed, this is the only region of Alberta believed to support indigenous populations of Rainbow trout. To preserve the genetic integrity of the "Athabaskan" strain Rainbow trout and assist the recovery of this species within its natural range in Alberta, Parks Canada sampled stocks throughout the Athabasca watershed of JNP. The goal of the research is to determine whether or not genetically distinct stocks of indigenous Rainbow trout remain within the Athabasca watershed of JNP. The project further seeks to determine the extent to which native stocks may have genetically introgressed with non-native, stocked Rainbow trout. Thirty Rainbow trout adipose fin clips were sampled in 2003 from each of 10 sites in JNP using non-lethal methods. DNA analysis is being completed during winter 2003 and results will be presented.