

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

FISHERIES DIVISION

JOB PROGRESS REPORT

STATE: MONTANA

PROJECT NUMBER: F46R3

JOB NUMBER: VI-G

PROJECT TITLE: STATEWIDE FISHERIES INVESTIGATIONS

STUDY TITLE: STATEWIDE SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: STATEWIDE ANGLER SURVEY

PERIOD COVERED: JULY 1, 1989 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1990

JOB OBJECTIVES

To gather angler use, catch rate and fish harvest data on individual waters to measure whether project objectives are being met.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The objective of this job was fulfilled.

Fisherman Log Program

The fisherman log program was continued as planned. Compilation of the data for the period December 1988, through November 1989, is in progress at the time this report is written.

Data analysis for the period December 1987, through November 1988, showed 378 log holders catching 1.8 fish per hour for the summer months (May-November) and 2.2 fish per hour for the winter months. New logs were issued to 129 anglers.

The Kalispell Region had the highest number of fish caught per hour for the summer months, while the Miles City region had the highest number of fish caught per hour for the winter season (figure 1).

The Miles City region had the highest average number of fish caught per day for both seasons (summer and Winter). (figure 2).

In the summer, Rainbow trout comprised the largest percent of the catch (33%) while white fish accounted for the least (8.8%). In the winter, Yellow perch accounted for the majority of the catch at 36.5%, while Brown trout was the smallest at 6.5%. (figure 3).

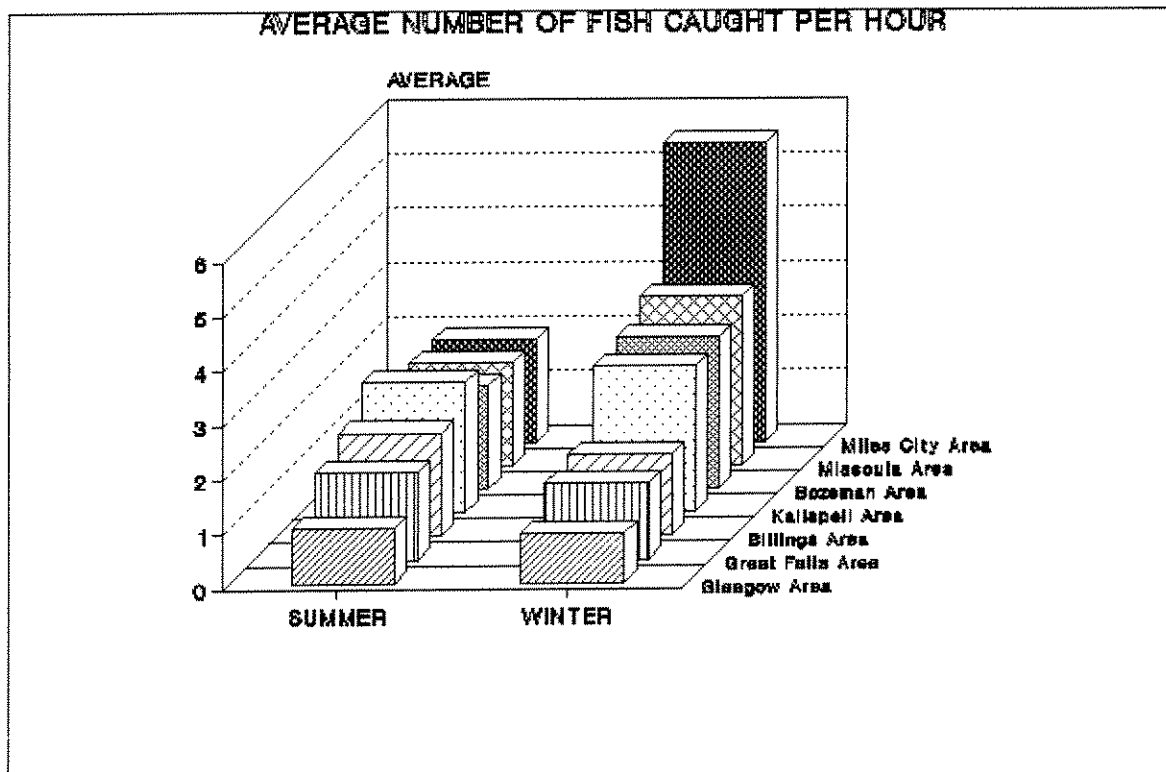


Figure 1. Average number of fish/hour for the 1987 - 88 Fisherman Log season.

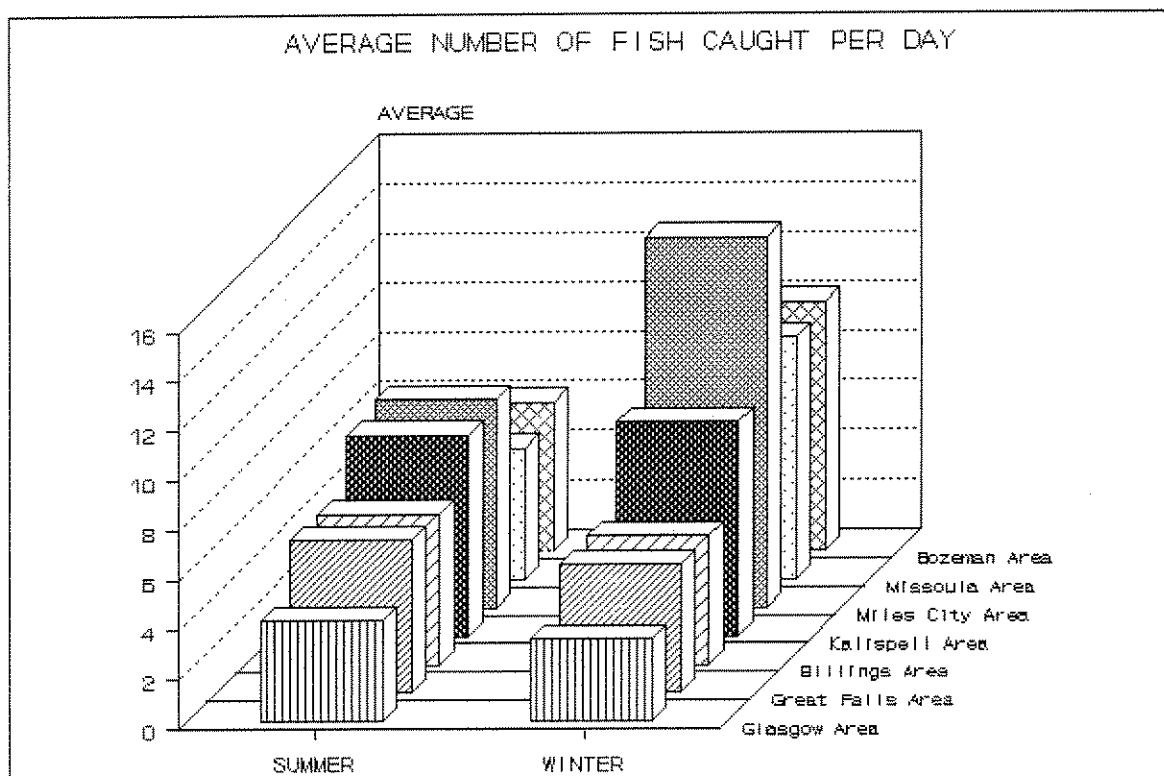


Figure 2. Average number of fish caught per day for the 1987-88 season.

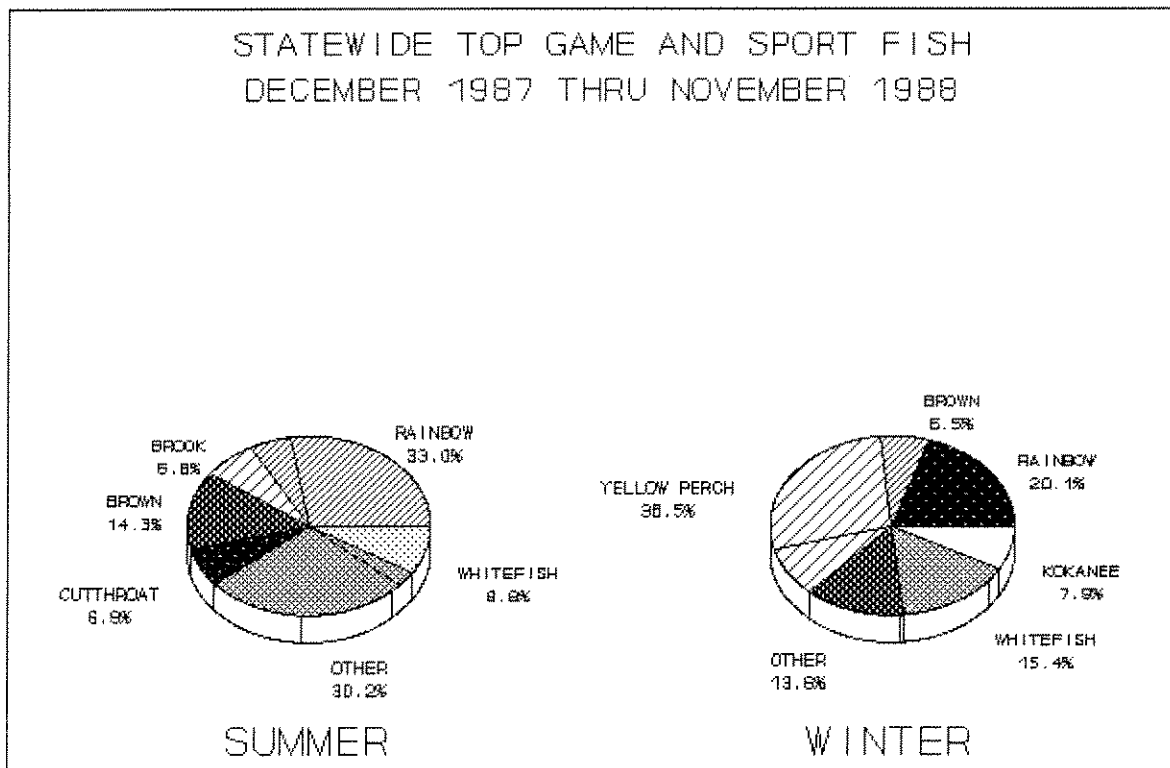


Figure 3. Percent catch of game and sport fish for the 1987-88 season.

Fishing Pressure Survey

During the report period the Statewide Angling Pressure Mail Survey was conducted.

Methods

The Statewide survey was begun in the spring of 1989. The methods were similar to that reported in Montana Statewide Angling Pressure Mail Survey 1982-85 (McFarland, 1989) with the following exceptions. Fishing licenses sold to resident anglers, non-resident season anglers and senior/youth/disabled anglers were entered into the computer. A random sample of approximately 10,000 names were drawn each month. The number allocated to each license type was in proportion to the pressure they exerted from previous surveys.

After a 2-3 week period after the initial mailing, a reminder was sent. A random sample of the non-respondents was phoned to ascertain their fishing activities for the period in question.

Results

The results are being compiled at the time this report is being written.

Literature Cited

McFarland, Robert C., 1989. Montana Statewide Angling Pressure Mail Survey 1982-85. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks report, 202 pp.

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Date: August 11, 1990.