

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

FISHERIES DIVISION

JOB PROGRESS REPORT

STATE: Montana

PROJECT NO.: F-46-R-5

TITLE: Statewide Fisheries Investigations JOB NO.: IV-F

STUDY TITLE: Survey and Inventory of Warmwater Lakes

JOB TITLE: Tiber Reservoir Creel Census

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 1991 through June 30, 1992

OBJECTIVES

1. Determine fishing pressure, harvest and angler characteristics for the high use portion of the fishing season (mid-April through mid-October).
2. Estimate relative fishing pressure and harvest during the ice fishing season.
3. Determine food habits of walleye and northern pike.

PROGRESS

Fieldwork on this project began on April 1, 1991 and was completed in March 1992. A local pilot was contracted to make periodic aerial counts of all anglers on the reservoir. In periods of low fishing use (April 1991 and 15 September 1991 through March 1992) one flight was made daily on five weekend days and three weekdays each month. Aerial count intensity was increased to two flights daily on two weekend days and three weekdays each two-week period during the high use season (May through mid-September 1991). Totals of 104 and 51 flights were made in the "summer" (April-September 1991) and "winter" (October 1991 - March 1992) periods, respectively.

Creel clerks interviewed approximately 570 parties representing 1300 anglers during the summer, and about 70 parties comprised of 180 anglers during winter. Summer catch rates (including fish released) were approximately 0.34/hr for walleye, 0.07 for northern pike, 0.02 for perch, and 0.02 for rainbow trout. Winter catch rates were much lower for walleye (0.08/hr) and higher for northern pike (0.14/hr). Winter catches of rainbow trout and yellow perch were similar to summer rates. Preliminary data analysis indicates summer period fishing pressure of 12,800 angler-days. Approximately 13,600 walleye, 2,400 northern pike, 2,200 yellow perch, 900 rainbow trout and 165 burbot were harvested during summer. A detailed completion report will be prepared when data analysis is completed.

Prepared by: Stephen A. Leathe

Date: September, 1992

PRINCIPAL FISH SPECIES INVOLVED:

Walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, rainbow trout.

CODE NUMBERS OF WATERS REFERRED TO IN REPORT:

14-9240 Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell)

tibercrlcen.sl