

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
FISHERIES DIVISION

JOB PROGRESS REPORT

State: MONTANA Project Title: STATEWIDE FISHERIES INVESTIGATIONS

Project No: F-46-R-5 Study Title: SURVEY AND INVENTORY OF COOLWATER AND WARMWATER ECOSYSTEMS

Job. No: I-s Job Title: BIGHORN WALLEYE EGG COLLECTION

Project Period: July 1, 1991 - June 30, 1992

OBJECTIVES AND DEGREE OF ATTAINMENT

- 1) To expand the walleye egg taking operation at Bighorn Lake to meet increased state demands for eggs.

Electrofished 8 nights for mature walleye on Bighorn Lake between March 31 and April 23, 1992. Concentrated most effort in the Ok-A-Beh area where most of the walleye have been collected in the past; however, a second boat spent time prospecting for concentrations of walleye further up the lake. The total number of mature female walleye collected increased over previous years, but a problem getting females to ripen resulted in the poorest egg take since walleye egg collection started on Bighorn Lake in 1988. Collected about 3.5 million eggs.

Devoted considerable effort toward shocking for walleye on Cooney Reservoir in the spring of 1992 in an attempt to develop an additional walleye egg source in Region 5. Collected only 20 mature females in five nights of sampling, and due to problems getting ripe females, collected fewer than half a million eggs.