

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: V-f Job Title: BIGHORN LAKE CREEL CENSUS

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

OBJECTIVES AND DEGREE OF ATTAINMENT

- 1) To participate in a coordinated creel and angler preference survey with two other agencies, i.e., the National Park Service and Wyoming Game and Fish.

Coordinated efforts with Wyoming Game and Fish and the National Park Service to develop creel census and angler preference questions for a year long angler survey on Bighorn Lake. Worked together to establish a sampling program and to develop a random sampling schedule that would coordinate efforts among all three agencies. Worked with National Park Service personnel to collect creel census data during the ice fishing season. Hired creel clerk to work jointly with the Wyoming creel clerk on the southern end of the lake.

- 2) To determine angler preferences for fish species management.

Developed creel census survey that allowed anglers to express their opinions on species preference and on potential management recommendations for the lake. Began contacting anglers on a pre-established random sampling schedule in early January.

- 3) To assess public opinion of issues such as reciprocal licensing.

Developed a specific question to determine public opinion towards a reciprocal license agreement on Bighorn Lake. Allowed each angler contacted, as part of the creel survey initiated in January, the opportunity to respond to this question one time.

- 4) To obtain relative fishing pressure estimates to help determine appropriate stocking levels and interstate fishing regulations.

Conducted randomized creel census at three locations on Bighorn Lake in cooperation with Wyoming Game and Fish and the National Park Service from January 1 through June 30, 1992. This project is ongoing.

SUMMARY

Progress was achieved on all objectives during FY92.