

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Fisheries Division Federal Aid Job Progress Report

Date: July 13, 2001

Montana Statewide Fisheries Management

Federal Grant: F-78-R6

Fiscal Year: 2000 (July 1999 – June 2000)

Project Title: Upper Missouri River/Canyon Ferry Reservoir fishery investigations

SABHRS Project Number: 3330

Project Reporting Period: July 1994 through June 2000

Abstract:

Fishery evaluations and angler success monitoring was conducted in the Missouri River, Canyon Ferry Reservoir, and associated tributaries throughout the period and a fisheries management plan was prepared during 1998 and 1999. The management plan will direct fisheries management for the period 2000 through 2009 (see attached). In addition to summaries of fisheries data prepared for the management plan, an annual update of fishery trends for 2000 is also attached. A Master Thesis prepared by David B. Yerk was partially funded by this project is also included in the attachment. Collectively, these three documents provide summaries and analysis of fishery and angler data for the reporting period. Additional information on fishery trends in associated tributaries will be presented in a subsequent report.

The primary fish species of interest for Canyon Ferry Reservoir described in the Upper Missouri River Reservoir Management Plan are rainbow trout, yellow perch, and walleye. Abundance of each of these species is currently within the desired range established in the management plan. The three-year running average of gill net data for each species is: 10.4 rainbow trout per floating gill net (plan objective 10 per net); 27.7 yellow perch per sinking gill net (plan objective 20 per net); and 6.8 walleye per sinking gill net (plan objective 5 to 10 per net). Monitoring of size distribution of selected fish species, forage fish abundance, and angler success is also presented in the attached documents. Detailed trends in the development of the walleye fishery in Canyon Ferry Reservoir is presented in the enclosed Master's Thesis by Dave Yerk.