

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

FISHERIES DIVISION
JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Montana PROJECT TITLE: Flathead Lake Fisheries
Investigations

PROJECT NO.: F-33-R-19 JOB TITLE: Seasonal, area and depth dis-
tribution of cutthroat trout,
bull trout, and lake trout in
Flathead Lake

JOB NO.: I-a

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 1984 to June 30, 1985

OBJECTIVES

It shall be the primary objective of this job to determine growth rates of lake trout and to assess annual and seasonal comparisons of growth.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The annual procedures outlined for the job were accomplished. Seasonal and distributional records and scale samples for age and growth analysis were continued to be accumulated on the target species (cutthroat, bull, and lake trout). Fish were obtained through the sampling with gill nets and seasonal creel checks. Additional seasonal distribution patterns were collected with acoustical equipment.

Windy weather again prevented the conducting of glass-bottom pram surveys along known lake trout spawning concentrations. In coordination with BPA studies on the lake, aerial flights were made during November and December, the lake trout spawning season, to establish additional use areas.

All scale and otolith collections have been examined with preliminary ages assigned with the final aging summary awaiting age verification.

Monitored the winter fishery for lake trout during the ice cover period. Preliminary census data indicated that 20 lake trout, ranging from 10 to 38 pounds, were caught per day. These trout were being taken near the bottom at depths ranging from 95 to 268 feet.

Plans were made to conduct a BPA - FWP coordinated angler pressure and fish harvest estimate for the 1985 summer fishing season.

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