

## 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-18 JOB TITLE: Seasonal, area and depth  
distribution of cutthroat  
trout, Dolly Varden and lake  
trout in Flathead Lake

JOB NO.: I-a

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984

## 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. A secondary objective will be to identify any seasonal species habitat preference for cutthroat, bull or lake trout.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The annual procedures outlined for this 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, mid-water trawl hauls and creel checks, with some seasonal distribution patterns recorded on acoustical tape.

Accumulated age and growth data was entered and stored on regional computer system. Entered and stored past depth and lake distribution records of the target species into the regional computer system.

Conducted several glass-bottom pram surveys along known lake trout spawning concentration areas (Woods Bay and Painted Rock localities). Windy weather prevented establishment of population indices before the fish left the areas. Samples of scales, otoliths and operculum bones from small (less than 500 mm T.T.) lake trout were collected during the regular spring and fall sampling of lake trout from McGregor lake. This collection will be used as a reference collection to aid in interpreting early growth patterns of Flathead Lake lake trout.

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Date: September 27, 1984