

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

FISHERIES DIVISION
JOB PERFORMANCE REPORTSTATE: MontanaPROJECT TITLE: Flathead Lake Fisheries
InvestigationsPROJECT NO.: F-33-R-17JOB NO.: I-bJOB TITLE: Seasonal, area and depth
distribution of cutthroatt
trout and Dolly Varden in
Flathead LakePERIOD COVERED: July 1, 1982 to June 30, 1983

OBJECTIVES

It shall be the primary objective of this job to determine growth rates of cutthroat and bull trout (Dolly Varden) to assess annual and seasonal comparisons of growth. A secondary objective will be to identify any seasonal species habitat preference for cutthroat, bull and lake trout.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The annual procedures outlined for this job were partially completed. Data on the target species was continued to be accumulated with scale and otolith samples collected from fish taken by netting and creel checks.

Data from the past 15 years was transferred from the regional mini-computer floppy discs to the new Department's computer storage system (hard disc, 8-inch floppy with cassette back-up). Several data entry formats were made to input the past netting data into the computer. Netting records were partially entered in the computer system. The final report on the seasonal, area and depth distribution of the target species will be completed when data has been entered in the computer and can be analyzed.

Two collections of scales and otolith bones from small (6-20 inches total length) lake trout were made from two other regional lakes to aid in the interpretation and analysis of the scale collections from large sized lake trout from Flathead Lake.

Concentrations of spawning lake trout were observed from mid-November to December along the precipitous rocky slopes of the west shoreline. These concentrations were located with the cooperation of Bonneville Power Administration contract personnel engaged in observing kokanee spawning areas using a counting technique through a glass bottom boat. Along with additional SCUBA diving, a technique to establish yearly trend information on lake trout is to be formulated.

Prepared By: Delano A. HanzelDate: November 1, 1983