

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

FISHERIES DIVISION
JOB PERFORMANCE REPORTSTATE: MontanaProject Title: Flathead Lake Fisheries
InvestigationsPROJECT NO.: F-33-R-16JOB NO.: I-aJOB TITLE: Seasonal, area and depth
distribution of cutthroat
trout and Dolly Varden in
Flathead LakePERIOD COVERED: July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1982

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 accomplished. Seasonal distribution 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.

Time was spent assisting and coordinating fish sampling and data summary with contract fisheries personnel working on the food habits of fish in Flathead Lake. Accumulated age and growth data was entered and summarized on the local mini-computer system. Past and present age and growth data for 564 cutthroat and 533 bull trout were analyzed and was presented in combination with the final contract report "Flathead Lake Fish Food Habits Study", Final Report 1982. by Patrick Graham and Steve Leathe.

An analysis of the past and present collections of 218 lake trout was initiated. These data represent fish ranging in size from 198 to 965 mm (7.8 to 38.0 inches) total length. Since a majority of the present collections are represented by large fish (>508 mm) efforts will be directed toward collection of smaller fish.

Prepared By: Delano A. HanzelDate: June 8, 1983