MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

FISHERIES DIVISION
JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Montana

PROJECT NO: F-33-R-15

JOB NO: I-a

PROJECT TITLE: Flathead Lake Fisheries Investigations

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

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 1980 to June 30, 1981

OBJECTIVES

It shall be the primary objective of this job to identify the diet and seasonal movements of the cutthroat trout and bull trout (Dolly Varden) as they are associated with species habitat preference or by spawning migration activities. A secondary objective would be to describe the seasonal distribution patterns of the lake trout.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The annual procedures outlined for this job were accomplished. Seasonal 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 data was summarized on the local mini-computer system with the data stored on diskettes. Time was spent coordinating with contract fisheries personnel in establishing techniques that were to be used in the drainage-wide analysis of age and growth data on the cutthroat and bull trout. Preliminary age and growth summaries for these two species are available.

Acoustical surveys were conducted during August and November in two areas where lake trout concentrations were found. The large trout targets were easily recognized; however, their numbers were too small and areas too confined to establish density estimates. Transects conducted during the daylight hours did record more large fish targets than those conducted during the evening hours.

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