

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-14
JOB NO: I-a JOB TITLE: Seasonal, area & depth dis-
tribution of cutthroat trout
and Dolly Varden in Flathead
Lake
PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 1979 to June 30, 1980

OBJECTIVES

It shall be the primary objective of this job to identify the diel and seasonal movements of the cutthroat trout and 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. Netting and creel checks provided by the bulk of the data collected on the target species, cutthroat and Dolly Varden. New acoustical sampling techniques were employed but they failed to provide an adequate annual population indice. The new larger meshed mid-water trawl (cod end - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch measure) was fished but did not increase the effectiveness of catching either of the target species. Gill netting in the lower Flathead River during the fall season was accomplished to define the use of this habitat by these species.

Much of the remainder of the work on this job was done in conjunction with EPA contract fisheries studies in progress on this river and lake system. Time was spent designing and implementing computer analysis programs that could be used drainage wide. Age analysis of these target species was not accomplished. Work will be done when early life history is completed in the juvenile rearing areas of the upper river system.

The findings of this work is on file at the Regional Office and will be incorporated into the final report.

Prepared By: Delano A. Hanzel

Waters Referred to: _____

Date: June 17, 1981Flathead Lake 07-6400-03
Flathead River Sec. 02 07-1560-01