

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

*Larry Peterman
Helena*



MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Project Title: Quantification of Libby Reservoir levels needed to maintain or enhance reservoir fisheries.

Project Number: BPA 83-467; MDFWP 31761

Project Biologist: Don Skaar

Project Technicians: Larry Garrow, Barry Thornburg, Pat Hylton, Tom Ostrowski, Jean Futterer, Joel Tohtz

Project Manager: John Fraley

Report for the Month: September 1990

1. Summary of significant results.

Reservoir elevation dropped 5.01 feet throughout the month, and was at 2,453.63 feet at the end of the month. The average inflow for the month was 5,810 cfs and the average outflow was 9,420 cfs.

Field sampling continued throughout the month. Zooplankton (Schindler, drift and vertical tow) were sampled September 6 in the forebay, afterbay, Tenmile, Rexford and Canada Areas.

The trashrack-mounted transducer at Libby Dam was reinstalled on September 24. To avoid cable wear problems, the transducer cable was sheathed in conduit and rubber hose.

Reservoir creel survey ended for the year on September 30.

The Quartz Creek trap (for bull trout) was removed on September 21.

Snorkel surveys for juvenile trout and whitefish in Section I of the river (Libby Dam to Kootenai Falls) continued throughout the month.

Recapture runs were made for population estimates of mountain whitefish and rainbow trout in the Flower-Pipe and Troy sections of the river during the week of September 10-14.

An attempt was made to redo the hydroacoustic survey of kokanee in the reservoir after it was learned that the equipment was malfunctioning during the effort in August. Equipment malfunctioned again on September 12, and it was decided to wait until after the kokanee run to try again. This attempt will probably be in November and will allow us to estimate numbers of age 0 and 1 kokanee.

The entire Project staff attended the Regional meeting in Kalispell on September 14.

Skaar attended the Kootenai River Sturgeon Steering Committee meeting in Bonner's Ferry, Idaho on September 19.

The fall horizontal gill net series on the reservoir was conducted from September 24-27 in the Tenmile and Rexford areas.

The first of four kokanee spawner counts was made on Kikomun and Norbury Creeks on September 19 and 20, respectively. Count totals were 21,281 and 4,454 fish on the two streams, respectively.

2. Short discussion of any major problems encountered, changes in workplan, or schedule deviations.

None.

3. A short description of planned activities for the following month.

Reservoir creel survey data will be entered into the computer and analyzed throughout the month.

Zooplankton sampling on the reservoir will be conducted the week of October 15-19.

The fall horizontal gill net series will be conducted in the Rexford and Canada areas the week of October 1-5.

Design on the draft tube net frame has been finalized, and a contractor will be chosen during October to build it.

Entrainment work including hydroacoustic monitoring of the penstock, hydroacoustic transects in forebay and vertical gill netting in the forebay will resume during the month.

A check totaling \$22,375 will be mailed to the Corps of Engineers in Seattle to pay for their help with the entrainment study.

4. Itemized listing of each non-expendable item greater than \$1,000 and each designate sensitive item.

None.

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