

FEDERAL AID IN SPORT FISH RESTORATION

Volume 2, Number 14

Technical Services

by

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F-25-1

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September 1987

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RESEARCH PROJECT SEGMENT

State: Alaska Name: Technical Services
Project: F-25
Study: 1 Study Title: Report Editing/Quality
Control/Literature
Cooperator: Kenneth A. Leon Accession
Period Covered: October 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987

INTRODUCTION

A substantial portion of the Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development (FRED) Division's activities consists of applied research, fish production, and development leading to increased success and satisfaction for sport fishermen in Alaska. To efficiently provide these benefits to the user group, the research, production, and development must utilize either state-of-the-art methods or ones developed specifically for the projects, including appropriate experimental designs. The resulting data must be analyzed rationally and reported in such a way that they are understood by the readers. Without adhering to this philosophy, the project may not allow attainment of the objectives, either because the necessary data were not obtained or because the application could not be understood by the readers. For these reasons, report editing/quality control must be adequately provided. Part of this editing is to make the reports more readable and part is to make sure that the technical characteristics of the project are appropriate and that the information is correctly interpreted. Editing of reports is simply the final but necessary assurance that the objectives were met. If they were not met, this function develops new strategies to increase the chances that they will be attained in the future.

Naturally, good data do not result from poorly designed projects. Therefore, the quality-control function actually begins in the formulative stages of the projects. It is these early stages that usually require a readily accessible source of scientific literature so that techniques are consistent with the latest scientific knowledge. Use of available literature improves the chances of project success and increased efficiency. Therefore, an adequate amount of library services is necessary to complement sport fisheries project planning and quality control.

GOAL

The overall goal is to ensure that appropriately conceived projects are correctly interpreted and adequately reported so that sport fishermen will gain the most for the funds expended.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide the senior technical liaison and quality control to all FRED Division D-J-funded projects.
2. Edit approximately 13 FRED Division D-J-funded reports for grammar, syntax, consistency, form, and technical quality.
3. Assist the library in acquiring, sorting, indenting, cataloging, and disseminating the appropriate specialized fish biology and fisheries-related literature.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Under the Technical Services project, I assumed one of the lead positions in planning, prioritizing, and designing projects managed by 13 FRED Division personnel. Some of these projects were single studies, but many consisted of several studies. Throughout the period, I assisted and consulted with the project managers to ensure that everything possible was done to reach the objectives. Coordination of quarterly report schedules led to timely submittals to the federal-aid coordinator. These reports also helped me in following the progress of the each project.

Since assuming this role in the FY-1988 Dingell-Johnson (D-J) process, I received 39 individual reports that were edited for technical content and quality and for grammar, style, and syntax under the Technical Services project. This was accomplished by me and almost 3 months of a publications technician's time. Technical evaluation of these reports required hundreds of hours with the reports and for in-person or telephone conversations with the authors. It is noteworthy that many people and hours supplied by the FRED Division, but not funded by the D-J projects, were involved in performance of the work.

Some of the specific technical services provided to the field staff working on these projects included:

1. Egg fertilization techniques.
2. Diet and feeding techniques.
3. Feeding-trial procedures.
4. Strategies for optimal time, size, and location of fish releases.

5. Fish-culture strategies for hatcheries, especially Fort Richardson Hatchery.
6. Preliminary analyses of sport fish harvests.

In addition to these services, I supervised a librarian whose assistant was partially funded by federal monies. This person made it possible to meet Objective C of the contract. Of particular note was the storage of library-accessions data in a computer. The result was greatly increased efficiency and ease of access to sport fish biologists needing information to make their D-J projects more effective.

Many ongoing behind-the-scene activities, not funded by federal monies, complemented the D-J projects. These included fish-diet development and quality control, improved fish-cultural procedures, and literature reviews, in addition to management of people and budgets by personnel not covered by federal funding.

The results of our D-J projects have been dramatically impressive and gratifying. Sport fishermen are harvesting more hatchery-produced fish than they ever did. Rainbow trout production is reaching our objectives, and chinook salmon sport catches are increasing, despite the increased fishing pressure. The Juneau area is a case-in-point in that approximately 32% of the Golden North Salmon Derby chinook salmon entered were of Alaskan hatchery origin and accounted for 32% of the prizes.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All objectives of this project were met or exceeded. With the obvious success of most of the FRED Division D-J-funded projects in respect to increased catches of fish by sport fishermen, I recommend continued funding of these projects.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Sid Morgan for editorial assistance.