

October - December, 2000 Progress Report 1:24k Fish Distribution Development Project

Administration:

The Assistant Project Leader position was announced in October, but due to a lower than expected response, the position had to be re-announced. In December, thirty-three candidates were identified through the second announcement and screening interviews were conducted in the middle of the month. We anticipate holding a final round of interviews and offering the job sometime in January.

Comments concerning the scope and preliminary procedures were received and compiled from more than a dozen individuals and/or agencies. Many of the comments centered on the need to include cutthroat trout as one of the target species for the project, or the need to identify areas where fish may not be present. These and other comments/issues will be discussed and hopefully resolved at the upcoming Information Workshop, which will be scheduled once we have an Assistant Project Leader.

We are attempting to develop a method of compiling distribution data electronically as opposed to using hardcopy maps. This approach relies on interfacing MS Access with ArcView to develop a process whereby 7.5 minute quad map images can be projected onto a screen, and based on information provided by data contributors, distribution events can be updated directly into MS Access. If we are successful, this approach will reduce our reliance on hardcopy maps in the field during data compilation, and will allow immediate review of the resulting distribution. However, this approach will require a greater time commitment on the part of the data contributors and it is anticipated that some contributors will choose to work with the hardcopy maps instead.

A project web site was developed and first posted in mid-October. The project web site will be used as the primary means of disseminating information about the project. You can find the original project proposal, information about the upcoming Information Workshop, and project personnel contact information on the site. The site will also provide project tracking information so interested parties can go online to track the progress of the project, and it will allow users to view project progress reports like this one.

Fish Distribution:

We developed a methodology to process the Mid-coast Rapid Bioassessment snorkel survey data into event table format and began processing the data to modify and improve our existing fish distribution information. We also initiated an effort to reconcile ODFW's Aquatic Inventory Project fish presence data with our anadromous fish distribution data for the southwest and northeast regions of Oregon. These efforts are also providing new 24k distribution data in the mid-coast and northeast portions of the state. We also acquired and processed into event format, summer steelhead and coho data for the Klamath basin. The plan is to continue processing the aquatic inventory fish data and solicit additional fish distribution data from other agencies once the project GIS Coordinator is hired.

Distribution Documentation:

Processing of the Mid-coast Rapid Bioassessment snorkel survey data and the Aquatic Inventory Project fish presence data is providing improved documentation of new and existing fish distribution data in the mid-coast and northeast regions of Oregon. The mid-coast data alone yielded 4,324 observation records for chinook, coho and steelhead throughout the Siletz-Yaquina and Alsea basins. We also incorporated new documentation in the Rogue basin based on local survey efforts.

Life-stage Timing:

Our first priority is to develop life-stage timing information for the upper John Day and Imnaha basins. A few documents containing timing-related information were identified through local sources. A broader literature search will be conducted once the Assistant Project Leader is hired.

Efforts to develop a data structure for timing data have centered on creating periodicity charts in MS Excel that illustrate the life-stage activity by species and run, and the time of year (in two-week blocks) that each activity occurs. So far, only charts for the John Day and Imnaha basins have been created. The closed periods of the ODFW Inwater Timing Guidelines were used to initially populate these charts.

Genetic and Production Origin: No significant efforts to report.

Barriers:

Efforts to date have focused on verifying the information currently contained in our Barrier database, improving the data entry interface for the database, drafting a users manual, and inputting new information for the Rogue basin. At the present time, all the barriers in the database are associated with 100K streams. Once data compilation for the 24k project begins, we will incorporate barriers associated with 24k streams.