

STUDY PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Michigan

Project No.: F-80-R-8

Study No.: 230487

Title: Performance, survival and production of steelhead strains in tributaries of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

Period Covered: October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007

Study Objectives: To evaluate strain performance of winter (Michigan) and summer (Skamania) strains of steelhead. To evaluate the performance of steelhead in six rivers, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. To evaluate returns of steelhead from upstream and downstream plants in rivers. To describe year-to-year variation in growth and survival of steelhead populations in Michigan. To define the quality, condition, and health of different strains and batches of hatchery-produced fish.

Summary: Study fish have recruited to fisheries and have been recovered through volunteer angler returns, by Great Lakes and river creel clerks, by headhunters hired to look for study fish, and by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) personnel conducting assessment work for other studies. We are focused at this point on analyzing data to meet the objectives stated above and writing final papers for journal submission.

Findings: Jobs 8 and 10 were scheduled for 2006-07, and progress is reported below.

Job 8. Title: Analyze data and write report.—Analyses are progressing and a manuscript is being prepared for submission in December 2007 to either Transactions of American Fisheries Society or North American Journal of Fisheries Management for publication.

Job 10. Title: Coordinate, obtain, and integrate feedback from managers regarding steelhead management plans.—Managers have been presented with analyses to date and exploration of management options is beginning. A management plan is scheduled for development in 2008 and results from this investigation will be integrated into the plan.

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Date: September 30, 2007