

STUDY PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Michigan

Project No.: F-80-R-2

Study No.: 469

Title: Investigations into causes of, and solutions for, recent declines in survival of trout stocked in Lake Huron

Period Covered: October 1, 2000 to September 30, 2001

Study Objective: (1) to explore methods of documenting the lacustrine early life history of stocked salmonids, with emphasis on understanding factors influencing mortality during their first year at large; (2) to determine whether there are genetically-based differences in early life-history characteristics that affect return to the creel, by comparing performance of a lacustrine strain of brown trout with that of one of the standard domesticated strains; and (3) to define methods that can be employed to improve survival and extend average longevity of brown trout used for stocking, such that return to the creel in lakes can be improved to 10% of the number stocked.

Summary: All jobs have been completed except for Job 7: Analyze data, and prepare performance and final reports and technical publications. Most data analysis was delayed in 2000-2001 so that the project leader could prepare two technical reports relative to the State's entry into the Year 2000 Consent Decree with the United States and 1846 Treaty Tribes of Chippewa-Ottawa. The final report for Study 469 will be drafted during the 2001-2002 project year.

Job 7. Title: Analyze data, and prepare performance and final reports and technical publications.

Findings: The annual progress report was prepared and submitted on schedule. Graphics were prepared and presentations made to various public interest groups and the Lake Huron Technical Committee. Databases from each job have been compiled and verified in preparation for the final report. Progress was made in data analysis for the final report. This study was amended in project year 2000-2001 to extend the reporting period for one year. The extension was necessary to give the project leader time to prepare two technical reports associated with the State's entry into the Year 2000 Consent Decree with the United States and 1846 Treaty Tribes of Chippewa-Ottawa. The final report for Study 469 will be drafted and submitted for publication during the 2001-2002 project year.

Prepared by: James E. Johnson

Date: September 30, 2001