

STUDY PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Michigan

Project No.: F-81-R-1

Study No.: 489

Title: Comparison of Mail and Creel Survey
Estimates for Recreational Fishing on the
Great Lakes

Period Covered: October 1, 1999 - September 30, 2000

Study Objective: To examine the feasibility of using a mail and/or telephone survey to provide estimates of effort, targeted effort, harvest, and targeted harvest by month and Statistical Reporting District for selected species from Michigan's waters of the Great Lakes.

Summary: Comparison of mail and creel survey estimates was not completed due to several complicating factors including efforts redirected by key personnel toward other studies, potential problems with existing estimates of creel survey effort and harvest estimates, and discovery of data entry errors in the mail survey databases.

Job 7. Title: Compare mail and creel survey estimates, and evaluate results.

Findings:

Our work on this study was not completed, and the Study was amended to extend it for another year. The delay resulted from the following factors: (1) Some existing creel estimates (to which mail estimates will be compared) are under revision; (2) efforts of the PI were required on other studies; (3) Existing databases from the mail creel program were found to have some errors and omissions. Changes in recommended methods for creel survey estimates have been known for several years, but the process of revising estimates using new methods from data collected over the past 15 years has proved much more difficult than was originally expected. Problems with the mail survey databases included the discovery of one batch of surveys that had not been originally entered and various data entry errors (discovered through application of screening programs). The former postdoctoral associate (Dale Hall) on this project (who is now in another position) visited Michigan State University for one week to help edit and finalize the database, document database contents, and document survey procedures. He has agreed to continue in this capacity over the next year.

Job 8 Title: Prepare annual report.

Findings: This report was prepared.

Prepared by: James Bence

Date: September 30, 2000