

## STUDY PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Michigan

Project No.: F-80-R-3

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, 2001 to September 30, 2002

**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. Data management and analysis was nearly completed and the Final Report for Study 469 is being drafted.

**Findings:** Only Job 7 was active for this segment, and is reported on below.

**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. 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. The final report for Study 469 is being drafted and will be submitted for publication during the 2001-2002 project year. Editing and publication will be during 2002-2003.

**Prepared by:** James E. Johnson

**Date:** September 30, 2002