

## STUDY PERFORMANCE REPORT

**State:** Michigan

**Project No.:** F-81-R-3

**Study No.:** 489

**Title:** Comparison of mail and creel survey estimates for recreational fishing on the Great Lakes

**Period Covered:** October 1, 2001 - September 30, 2002

**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:** In accord with the amended study, remaining tasks were reviewed and a staffing plan was developed. With assistance from a graduate student trained in human dimensions and a 10% commitment from the PI it is expected that needed analyses and a written report describing this project can be completed during the next year.

**Findings:** Jobs 8 and 10 were scheduled for 2001-02, and progress is reported below.

**Job 8 Title:** Prepare annual report.—This report was prepared.

**Job 10 Title:** Review project status.—An electronic database in useable form exists. The former Research Associate on this project has continued to error check this database over the past year. A nearly complete written description of methods for most of the work done on this project already exists. Written descriptions are needed for a follow up postcard survey, and all the methods need to be combined into one document. Preliminary descriptive analyses of survey results need to be updated. A review of relevant literature and information needs to be updated. Estimates of fishery harvest and effort need to be generated from the existing survey data and compared with the corresponding creel survey methods. Much of the redrafting of methods, literature review, and descriptive analyses can be completed by an experienced graduate student assistant. Analyses to generate catch and effort estimates will require the expertise and skills of the PI, as will putting the results into the context of how mail or phone surveys might or might not replace or supplement existing direct contact creel surveys. Overall it is estimated that it will require the equivalent of approximately ten months of 50% assistance from a graduate RA and a 10% commitment of the PI (Bence) to bring this project to completion. A graduate assistant (Melissa Koval) has been identified to assist in this project. It is expected that this student will complete her Master's thesis (on another topic) by the end of 2002 and she has agreed to continue to work on this project in a temporary staff position after conclusion of her graduate program.

**Prepared by:** James Bence

**Date:** September 30, 2002