

Ecological Study of the Snake River Cutthroat Trout

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The second segment of an ecological study of the Snake River cutthroat trout was continued through the 1968 fishing season--April 1 to October 31, 1968. The objectives of the study were to collect information relative to determination of the magnitude and age composition of the harvest, habitat preferences and food habits of the Snake River cutthroat trout.

In accomplishing the above objectives the Snake River from Jackson Lake Dam to Palisades Reservoir was divided into six study sections. Data have been collected from the six sections over a two year period. Information collected during 1968 included:

1. Angler interview data including hours fished, fish caught, and tackle used. This information is to be used in determining the magnitude of the harvest.
2. Length-weight data were collected for nearly 1,500 fish. In addition, numerous scales were collected relative to age-growth analysis.
3. Several hundred cutthroat trout stomachs were collected from creel fish. Stomachs will be analyzed to determine food habits of the cutthroat trout in the Snake River.
4. Information relative to habitat preferences and the effect of flood control structures on the fishery was collected from fisherman interviews and electrofishing operations.
5. Volume flows of the river were monitored to determine their effect on the fishing effort.
6. A portion of the anglers interviewed were classified as expert and non-expert in order to determine a relation between skill and fisherman success.
7. Harvest data were stratified seasonally - Spring, Summer, Fall - in order to determine seasonal differences in harvest.
8. Bank and float fishermen were interviewed separately so that differences in harvest might be noted.
9. All creels were checked for the presence of marked fish relative to determining the contribution of artificially reproduced fish to the creel.
10. All species of fish other than cutthroat trout in the creel were noted in order to determine their contribution to the catch.

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