

I. Stocking Survey

Program Manager: Roy Johannes
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Section of Fisheries - Box 12
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St. Paul, MN 55155
612-296-2308

- A. M.L.91, Chpt.254, Art.1, Sect.14, Subd.8(g) Appropriation: \$35,000
(6/30/93) Balance: \$ 9,967

Stocking Survey: This appropriation is to the commissioner of natural resources to survey organizations to determine the level of interest in public and private fish stocking activities. The survey must be done in cooperation with the Minnesota Sportfishing Congress and other interested groups.

- B. Compatible Data: Not applicable.

- C. Match Requirement: Not applicable.

II. Narrative:

Fish are stocked each year by the Section of Fisheries into water bodies where the fish populations will benefit from stocking. The goal of these stockings is to increase fishing opportunities for anglers. Most of the fish stocked are raised under state supervision, the remainder in cooperation with volunteer assistance. Situations may develop where state facility production cannot meet demand; therefore, opportunities may exist for local organizations to contribute matching funds to purchase fish from private sources. A survey of local organizations would help identify the amount of interest in a cost-sharing program.

III. Objectives:

- A. Identify and survey organizations to determine their willingness and ability to participate in a cost-sharing stocking program and determine the cost and dimension of such a program.

- A.1. Narrative: Numerous organizations such as Lake or Resort Associations, angling or outdoor groups, local (city or county) governments, or Chambers of Commerce would possibly be interested in matching funds with the state (on a 50-50 basis) for the purchase of fish from private growers for stocking in public

waters. Potential cooperators need to be identified so their input can be solicited.

- A.2. Procedures: A contract consultant would survey affected organizations. Existing lists of organizations compiled by the DNR will be used in addition to a representative sample of local governments. A survey questionnaire will be developed to determine from organizations their: 1) interest in a cost-sharing stocking program and 2) willingness and ability to provide matching funds for stocking.

A.3. Budget

LCMR Funds

- a. Amount Budgeted: \$30,000
b. Balance (6/30/93) \$ 4,967

A.4. Timeline for Products/Tasks Jul 91 Jan 92 Jun 92 Jan 93 Jun 93

Compile list of affected organizations
Develop survey questionnaire and conduct survey
Analyze results and determine scope of program

- A.5. Status: A request for proposal to conduct a survey of affected organizations was published in the State Register on November 18, 1991. Submitted proposals were reviewed, and Braun Intertec was selected on January 6, 1992 to conduct the survey. The contractor has prepared a list of organizations, developed the survey questionnaire, and conducted the survey. The data from the survey has been compiled and analyzed. If there is additional interest in shared-cost fish stocking, procedures used for cooperative and sponsored pond rearing are now in place. A final report is now available.

- A.6. Benefits: Identification of groups able to cost share for stocking should result in additional fishes being stocked when state production is not able to meet demand. Also, monies spent on these stocking will benefit private growers.

- B. Identify methods for participation of local organizations in a cost-sharing stocking program

- B.1. Narrative: Stockings of fish should be justified to insure maximum benefits are derived from these stockings. Also, water bodies stocked must have public access. Procedures for organizations to request matching funds for purchase of fish and approval and prioritization of approved requests will have to be

developed.

B.2. Procedures: Establish application procedures and guidelines for participation in the program.

B.3. Budget

LCMR Funds

a. Amount Budgeted: \$5,000
b. Balance \$5,000

B.4. Timeline for Products/Tasks Jul 91 Jan 92 Jun 92 Jan 93 Jun 93

Establish procedures and guidelines

B.5. Status: A request for proposal to conduct a survey of affected organizations was published in the State Register on November 18, 1991. Submitted proposals were reviewed, and a contractor, Braun Intertec, was selected on January 6, 1992 to conduct the survey. The survey has been conducted and data have been compiled and analyzed. A final report is available.

B.6. Benefits: Guidelines for participation in the program will help insure that monies spent by all parties will benefit Minnesota anglers.

IV. Evaluation:

For the FY92-93 biennium, the program can be evaluated by its ability to: 1) develop a list of organizations that would participate in the program; 2) survey these organizations to determine the dimensions of the program; and 3) develop procedures to implement the program.

In the long term, evaluation of this program's success will be the increased angling opportunities provided by fishes stocked as part of this program.

V. Context

A. No list exists of organizations interested in a cost-sharing stocking program that could be used to assess the dimension of such a program.

B. Information gained in this survey can be used to enact a program to provide fishes for stocking in public waters when state production is unable meet to meet biologically justified stocking requests.

C. A report comparing the costs of fishes produced by state and private hatcheries has addressed the question of the most cost-effective source of fishes for stocking in public waters. The state has been identified as the most cost-effective means of producing walleye fingerlings.

D. Not applicable.

E. Biennial Budget System Program Title and Budget: Not Available at this Time

VI. Qualifications

1. Program Manager:

Roy Johannes
Fisheries Program Coordinator
Section of Fisheries - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
M.S. Biology - Aquatic Ecology, St. Mary's College - Winona, 1983.

The program manager has been involved in fisheries management, research, and culture activities since 1980. His current position includes responsibility for the statewide warm and cool water fish distribution. He is also responsible for coordinating commercial fishery activities.

2. Major Cooperators:

A) Major cooperators will include organizations interested in participating in the program and contractor selected for developing and conducting survey of potential participants in the program. Specific groups interested in involvement are unknown at this time.

VII. Reporting Requirements

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1992, July 1, 1992, January 1, 1993 and final status report by June 30, 1993.

1991 RESEARCH PROJECT ABSTRACT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1993

This project was supported by MN Future Resources Fund (M.L. 1991, Chpt. 254 Art. 1, Sect. 14, Subd. 8(g))

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| TITLE: | Stocking Survey |
| PROGRAM MANAGER: | Roy Johannes |
| ORGANIZATION: | MN Department of Natural Resources, Section of Fisheries |
| LEGAL CITATION: | M.L. 1991, Chpt. 254 Art. 1, Sect. 14, Subd. 8(g) |
| APPROP. AMOUNT: | \$35,000 |

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

To identify and survey organizations statewide to determine their willingness and ability to participate in a cost-sharing stocking program and determine the cost and dimension of the program.

OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS

Surveys were mailed to approximately 1,800 organizations with 135 (7.5%) of those contacted responding. Approximately half (53%) of the respondents are willing to donate time and/or money to potential DNR fish-stocking projects. Some of those unwilling to contribute resources did so due to the fact that their organization was already cooperatively working with the DNR. About one-third of the respondents were willing to donate specific amounts of money ranging from \$50 to \$6,000 per year. The remainder of the organizations wanted more specific information before considering donating any time or money to the program or were not interested.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

The final report was presented and provided to the President (John Schneider) of the Minnesota Sportfishing Congress. Information obtained has shown that there is a small amount of interest in cost-sharing fish stocking beyond what is already taking place. There are many organizations statewide donating time and money to cooperative fish rearing.