

# Release Notes for Pisces version 1.65

Release Date: **December 20, 2005**

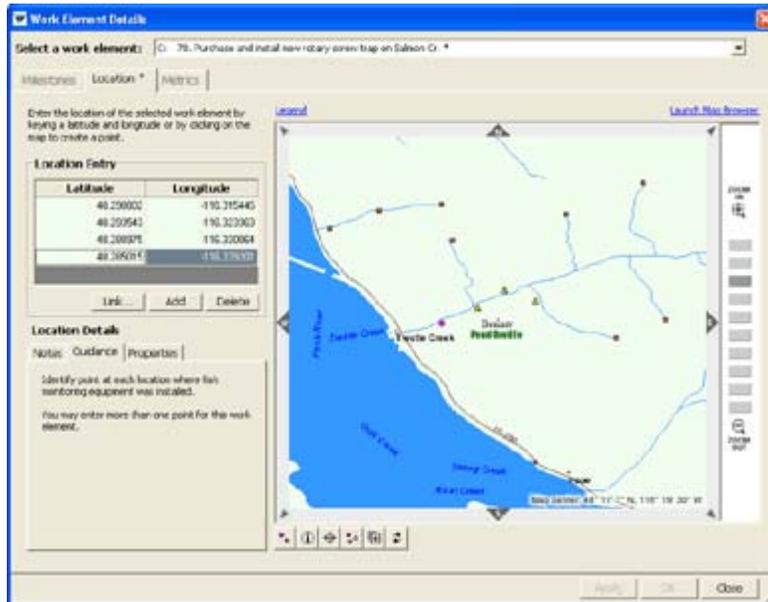
The Fish & Wildlife Process Improvement Team has successfully deployed another tantalizing yet trusty update to Pisces: version 1.65. Two important new functions debut in this release: metrics data entry and location data entry functionality (including interactive map). These new features will enable the Fish and Wildlife Program to report project and program accomplishments geographically, based on data entered by program contractors.

**Pisces** is a web-enabled software application aimed at helping BPA and its Fish & Wildlife program participants track and manage projects throughout the Columbia River Basin. Pisces allows contractors and BPA project managers to collaborate on project definition and ongoing project management over the internet.

Features in Pisces version 1.X include:

## 1. Location Data entry

- a. Both the location and metrics data entry functions are housed in the Work Element Details window, which used to hold only the Milestones tab. You can move quickly between work elements using the new dropdown menu at the top of the Work Element Details window.
- b. We have provided specific guidance for how to enter location for each work element (some don't require location at all, some are limited to a single point, others allow multiple points). See section 4 below.
- c. Choose from 3 options when adding location data to your work element:
  1. Key in a latitude and longitude
  2. Click on a map to plot a point
  3. "Link" to another location already entered in Pisces
- d. Location linking allows you to share locations among several work elements, even work elements from different contracts or projects. This feature saves time in that you don't have to re-enter the same points every year.
- e. For example, after providing a description to work element A, you can go to work element B and instead of keying in a location or plotting it on the map, click the "Link" button which displays a list of all the shared locations that you can link to. To enable a point to be shared, you must enter a description for it so that others can readily identify it.
- f. Pisces locations are stored in decimal degree format. If you have coordinates in degrees, decimal, minute format, you can use one of the many conversion utilities available on the web such as: <http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/bickel/DDMMSS-decimal.html> .
- g. For now, Pisces supports entering simple points and not lines or polygons.



Location Entry/Viewing in the new Pisces release

**2. Metrics Entry**

- a. While eventually we will ask contractors to provide planned metrics during creation of a SOW, in this release Pisces supports entering of actual metrics for completed work only.
- b. Following this release of Pisces, contractors will enter metrics (and location) data for all work elements in Pisces that require them. This catch-up exercise allows us to capture FY05 and some FY06 project accomplishments.
- c. We have provided specific guidance for how to enter metrics for each work element. This guidance is available in a report on the website, on the background pages for each work element, and from Pisces' "Reports" menu. In addition, when entering metrics in Pisces, the guidance is available for the current work element.
- d. Some work elements have many metrics, yet not all will apply to your work. Pisces allows you to uncheck those metrics that don't apply.
- e. Pisces provides fields for both contractor and Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) comments about each metric.
- f. Pisces will prompt for actual metrics when you mark deliverables complete while filling out status reports. You can cancel the prompt if you don't have the metric information readily available, but you must enter actual metrics before you can submit your status report.

**3. Visual Cues for Metrics and Location Requirements**

- a. Not sure which work elements require metrics or location data? Check this visual cue: in the work element dropdown list from either the metrics or location tab, work elements that require metrics or location data are marked with an asterisk. Today, a little less than half of the work elements have metrics associated with them.
- b. Also in the work element details window (get there by clicking the "Details..." button on the SOW tab for your contract), the metrics and/or location tabs will have an asterisk if metrics or location data are required for the selected work element.

- c. Pisces grays out the data entry fields for either (or both) location and metrics when they are not required. For work elements that don't require metrics, Pisces displays the text: "There are no metrics for the selected work element." For work elements that don't require location data, Pisces displays the text: "This work element does not require location."
- d. In the Statement of Work window, metrics and location requirements are indicated by dots in two new columns: "M" for metrics and "L" for location.

#### 4. Guidance on Metrics and Location Requirements

- a. The work element background pages have been updated to include guidance on metrics and location data requirements. See for example the background page for "Plant Vegetation": [http://www.efw.bpa.gov/contractors/work\\_categories/work\\_elements/we047.aspx](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/contractors/work_categories/work_elements/we047.aspx) . You may access all work element background pages (sorted by work category) at <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/contractors/statementsofwork.aspx> .
- b. For a complete list of work elements and associated metrics, refer to: [metrics guidance dynamic report](#).
- c. For the list of work elements that require location data points, please refer to the [location guidance dynamic report](#).

#### 5. Environmental Compliance Usability Improvements

- a. You can generate a quick summary of work elements requiring environmental compliance: right-click on the SOW in the list at the top of the SOW tab and select the new "Summarize Env. Compliance ..." option.
- b. Whether you add a new work element requiring environmental compliance documentation or copy a work element from a past SOW, Pisces will ensure that a milestone titled "Environmental compliance requirements complete" exists in the resultant work element.

#### 6. Status Reporting Usability Improvements

- a. Status Reporting: instead of checking the "Complete" box for deliverable milestones, now you can enter the actual date the deliverable was completed.
- b. Keep track of your work elements easier when status reporting – we added the work element letter to the status report and to the status report validation window.

#### 7. Other Usability Improvements

- a. Quickly jump to the Project Details page for your contract – the project number on the Contract Summary tab is now hyperlinked.
- b. The list of "Contract Actions" at the top of the SOW tab (now called the "Contract Action" grid) is easier to read and understand.
- c. The top of the Work Element Details window now has a dropdown menu to help you more quickly edit work element milestones.
- d. Pisces will now automatically add a set of 5 milestones when you add work element #119 – Manage and Administer Projects. Even if you copy this work element from an old SOW, Pisces will automatically add these milestones for you. If any of these milestones do not apply to your contract, you can simply delete them.
- e. The SOW Validation report now includes a check for locations for those work elements that require location. It also checks to make sure you're not using any expired work elements in your report. (To run the SOW Validation report, right-click on a contract action in the list at the top of the SOW tab.)