

Release Notes for Pisces version 2.2

Release Date: **March 22, 2007**

The latest release of Pisces: version 2.2, has many behind-the-scenes improvements that, while invisible to end users, will lay the foundation for functionality in subsequent releases.

The Fish & Wildlife Process Improvement Team has been putting the finishing touches on a new “Report Center” for Fish & Wildlife Program data. In order to automatically generate meaningful, up-to-date, user-friendly reports based on Pisces data, without taxing Pisces’ speed or capacity for day-to-day operations, the Pisces Team built a database called Aries specifically to handle reporting and analysis. While the Aries database enables the Report Center, another new function will perform a series of checks to ensure the quality of data from Pisces. In a few weeks, contractors and other program participants will receive a sneak preview of the Report Center via email; a formal announcement about the launch of the Report Center will follow shortly after.

A second major objective of this release is to lay the foundation for uploading attachments to Pisces. The technical infrastructure created in this release, combined with functionality added in subsequent releases, will enable Fish & Wildlife Program contractors to submit all of their contract documents in one place. We expect this feature to be fully functional in time for the development of FY08 contracts in summer 2007.

Building on the streamlined environmental compliance process launched in the last Pisces release, the mechanism to notify BPA Environmental Compliance Lead of changes to a Statement of Work (SOW) that may trigger environmental review has been modified to allow for more proactive communication. Also, the email system that supports the notification process has been built directly into Pisces to avoid conflicts with users’ existing email systems. This feature will also enable users to email fishsupport@bpa.gov (the Pisces help desk) directly from Pisces.

Finally, to support both the input of Pisces data (specifically, work elements and metrics) and the output of Pisces data to Fish & Wildlife Program reports, Pisces will now separate and keep track work elements and metrics by fiscal year. One practical benefit to users is that when building or modifying a SOW in late spring and summer -- when the Program typically reviews and makes changes to work elements and metrics -- users will no longer have to worry about which set of work elements and metrics are most current. Based on contract start date, Pisces will determine which fiscal year the contract or amendment belongs to, and present to the user only the work elements and metrics corresponding to that fiscal year. Ensuring the consistency of data input by fiscal year will help us ensure the consistency of data output in our fiscal year reporting. In other words, we want to be able to compare similar data from within one fiscal year as “apples to apples”, and to do this, all contractors creating or amending SOWs in a given fiscal year must input data in a similar way.

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.

Fixed Bugs and Enhancements

- Enhancement to Application (general): Users will be able to launch the Fish and Wildlife Program Report Center from within Pisces.
- Fixed bug in Contacts: Users can now search for contact names in Pisces that contain an apostrophe.
- Enhancement to Contract - SOW - EC tab: The WE (Work Element) Description field is now linked to the EC (Environmental Compliance) tab. EC Leads can now quickly reference the work element description when assessing EC requirements for a given work element.

- Enhancement to Contract - Summary tab: "N/A" is now an option for "EC Notified?" field. Instead of just "Yes/No" values in the "EC Notified?" field on the Contract Summary, "N/A" will be displayed when the contract does not have any work elements that require EC review on any of its contract actions (work statement revisions).
- Enhancement to Contract - SOW tab: The "Last modified by..." link label has been shortened from "Last modified by First Last on Dec 31st 2007 4:45PM..." format to "Modified: First Last, Dec 31st 2007 4:45PM" where "Modified: " is just normal text and is not a part of the hyperlink.
- Fixed bug in Notifications-Reminders: The vertical scroll function has been fixed in the "All Recipients". When users resize the "All Recipients" window (decrease its height), a vertical scrollbar will appear on its right edge. This feature may be helpful to those who have milestones with lots of reminders and lots of people on the distribution lists.
- Enhancement to Notifications-Reminders: The EC Lead notification email body has been changed to include the Project #, Contract #, Contract Title, due date for review, and a link to the SOW Report for the contract action being reviewed.
- Enhancement to Project - Budget tab: table of transactions in the Budget Decision Detail dialog is now sorted by transaction date, then by FY.

End of Pisces v.2.2 Release Notes