

Release Notes for Pisces version 2.5

Release Date: **December 13, 2007**

We are pleased to announce the latest release of Pisces, version 2.5. In this release, we overhauled the Notifications and Reminders part of the application, tightened the metric rules such that many metrics are now required rather than optional, added some quality control to Location entry, introduced a number of new reports, and improved the Cost Share screen based on user feedback.

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.

New features in Pisces version 2.5 include:

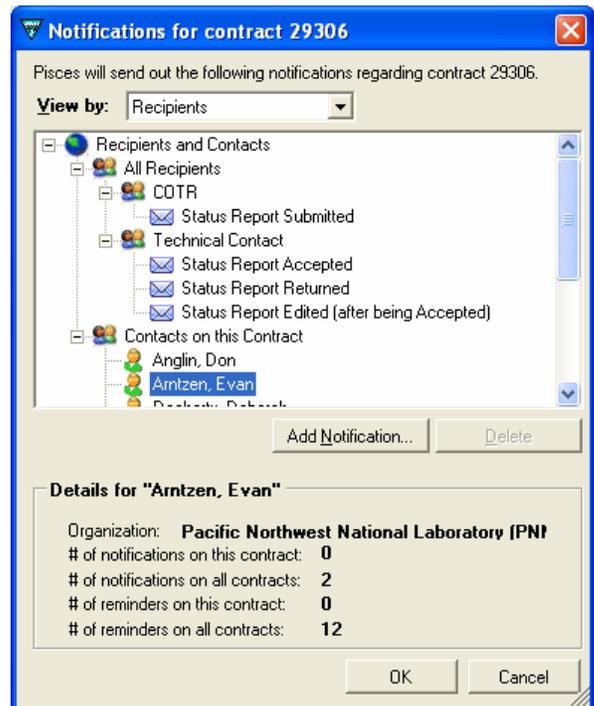
1. Notifications and Reminders

Notifications and Reminders can now be set up by Contract Role rather than just by individual. As a refresher, notifications are based on an event such as submitting of a status report, while reminders are based on time such as a milestone coming due in 5 days.

For example, the recipient of the "Status Report Accepted" notification can be a contact role such as "Contract Manager," rather than an individual such as "Jane Doe." Using role-based notifications and reminders can save you the hassle of keeping things updated in the future. In our example above, if Jane Doe is replaced by Dave Jones as the Contract Manager, the only thing you'd need to do is make sure Dave Jones was added to the contract contact list as a Contract Manager, and then Pisces would ensure the notification was sent to Dave Jones.

A few other new things:

- a. Since we assumed that in almost all cases Pisces users would want to use role-based notifications and reminders, as part of this release, we **converted** all existing notifications and reminders to be role-based when possible. In other words, if the recipient for a notification was also in the contact list and had a role, we converted the recipient to be not the individual, but the role.
- b. Notifications and reminders screens should be a little easier to use – check out the new tree view.
- c. You can now see just how many reminders and notifications people are signed up for.
- d. While only BPA COTRs can add/delete role-based notifications and reminders, anyone can add/delete notifications and reminders for recipients within their organization.
- e. You can transfer all notifications and reminders from one individual to another, as long as they are in your organization.



2. Location Quality Check

Now when you add or edit a location, Pisces will check to see if your location is within your project's subbasin (the subbasin under which your project was proposed). If not, you'll see a red hyperlink, [Location Problems](#), appear in the lower right corner of the screen. Click it to see which location(s) are outside of your project's subbasin. This is intended as a heads-up; Pisces will still allow you to save a location with this "problem."

3. Required vs. Optional Metrics

Most metrics are now required rather than optional. When entering planning metrics while creating or revising your contract's Statement of Work, you won't be able uncheck most metrics. We tightened these rules after reviewing reports like the Habitat Metrics by fiscal year and seeing missing metrics on some work elements. Generally speaking, all numeric metrics are required, while some of the qualitative metrics are optional. For a complete list of metrics and which are required, see the [Metrics Report](#) – accessible from both the [Report Center](#) and Pisces' Reports menu.

4. Moving Attachments Around

If you see that an attachment such as a Progress Report is attached to the wrong contract, rather than deleting and re-uploading it, contact Fish Support (fishsupport@bpa.gov). They now have the ability to quickly move an attachment from one contract to another. This is in addition to the "Move Attachment to Project" feature included in the previous Pisces update.

Also, HEP Reports can now be attached only at the Project level.

Lastly, Pisces no longer requires a Progress Report be associated with an instance of work element 132 (Produce Progress Report) for contracts that started in FY2006 or earlier.

5. Focal Species Limited for Hatchery Work Elements

All hatchery work elements that require metrics have always had a "splitting" rule dictating that you must have one work element per type of fish produced. However, the Focal Species screen still allowed you to identify multiple Primary Focal Species for any given hatchery work element. This little loophole has been closed – you can now identify only one Primary Focal Species (and no Secondary Focal Species) for the following hatchery work elements: [56. Acclimate Juvenile Fish](#), [59. Incubate Eggs](#), [63. Rear Fish](#), [64. Spawn Fish](#), [66. Trap/Collect/Hold/Transport Fish](#), [176. Produce Hatchery Fish](#).

6. Usability Improvements to Cost Share

Based on feedback from internal and external users, we've made some improvements to the Cost Share tab in the Project Details window. For example, you can now enter comments directly in the grid and the BPA Manager can quickly "return" submitted cost share information. You can also more easily fill out cost share information over multiple sessions – Pisces now lets you save (but not submit) cost share information when you have missing FY values.

7. Deleting/Moving Work Elements While Revising your SOW on an Amendment

Sorry, you can no longer delete work elements when revising your Statement of Work (SOW) during a contract amendment. If your SOW contains a work element that simply isn't going to get done, or that perhaps was mistakenly added to the original SOW as part of the Issued contract, the BPA COTR needs to cancel all the work element's milestones.

Having work elements disappear from one SOW revision to the next (and the subsequent shifting of work element letters) made it very difficult for managers and Contracting Officers to see what was changing during their review and approval of contract amendments.

For the same reason, you also can no longer move up/down work elements while revising your SOW during a contract amendment. If you're adding new work elements, be sure to add them in the order you want them to appear on the screen and in your SOW report.

8. Various New Reports

We've been busy completing a number of new reports, many of which are available either via the [Report Center](#) on the web or via the Pisces Reports menu:

- Projects with Cost Share Data Waiting to be Submitted
- Projects with Cost Share Data Waiting to be Confirmed
- Accrual and Invoice Lead Contacts by Organization
- Contract and Project Contact Role Definitions
- Rules for Validating Statement of Work (a full list of the rules used in the SOW Validation report)

If you have any questions about the new or existing Pisces features, or for technical assistance, please contact fishsupport@bpa.gov. For inquiries about cost share data or (annual) progress reporting requirements for your contract(s), please contact your COTR.

End of Pisces v.2.5 Release Notes