

Release Notes for Pisces version 3.8

Release Date: **May 20, 2010**

Welcome to the latest release of Pisces, version 3.8.

Pisces is a web-enabled .NET software application used by BPA and its Fish & Wildlife program participants to 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.

Want to find out more about what Pisces is and what you can do with it? Start here:

<http://www.efw.bpa.gov/contractors/usingpisces.aspx>

Changes in this release include:

Regional Coordination and Infrastructure

Metric Classifications Most of our work this release was devoted to supporting new BiOp reporting requirements from NOAA. Depending on the type of work you are doing, many different metrics may apply. Instead of adding all possible metrics to each Work Element and asking you to ignore those that don't apply, we have added a simple set of pick-lists that guides you through high level choices about the type of work you are doing and then creates only the relevant metrics you need to use. We have developed a simple tutorial for this new functionality that can be accessed from the following link: <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/contractors/docs/PiscesTraining-MetricsClassification.pdf>

FY11 Work Element and Metric Review In addition to WE and metric changes required by NOAA, EF&W also conducted its normal annual review of WEs and metrics. We added, updated, and retired WEs/metrics as well as updated background pages on EFW Web.

General Enhancements

Contracts in REVIEW Status COs are starting to use the REVIEW status for contracts to designate when a contract is being reviewed internally and (in combination with other fields) when it's out for signature with a contractor (we want you to be able to see both these different statuses). As part of phasing in this functionality, we fixed one bug around how contract amounts on these contracts in REVIEW status were displaying on the Budget Tool tab. This represents the beginning of our workflow effort.

Accruals To get ready for the 2010 Accruals season, which kicks off on August 1, we have posted new year-end instructions to EFW web, and made some improvements to the year-end accruals report. We also spent time on changing the accrual processing rules per finance; however these changes will not be in place until the June release.

Go directly to a Project from Explorer Contracts grid We currently have the ability in My Stuff to right click on a row and go directly to the associated Project. We have added the same

functionality to the Contracts grid in Explorer. When you right click on a row in the lower Contracts grid of Explorer, you'll see the "View Project" option.

Technical Platform

Network Reconstruction Although seamless to Pisces users, this IT initiative continues to move along in the background and has a large behind the scenes impact. The goal is to move all Pisces functionality to a new part of BPA's network that has newer and therefore more stable and reliable hardware. To ensure proper testing time (i.e. no end user impact) we are not committing a cutover date, but we do hope to complete this effort over the next few months.

The next Pisces release 3.8 is scheduled for June 10, 2010.