

Release Notes for Pisces version 1.67

Release Date: **June 27, 2006**

The Fish & Wildlife Process Improvement Team is pleased to announce the latest release of Pisces: version 1.67. This release comes with several enhancements for Pisces users, including the ability to personalize the way Pisces looks and loads, and the addition of the highly anticipated spell checker. The Status Report Completion Guide has been updated with checks at the work element and milestone levels, which will make filling in missing information in your status report much easier.

Finally, rounding out our year-long effort to gather critical data in Pisces, contractors may now enter planned metrics for new contracts. With this piece of the data picture, the Fish and Wildlife Program can now report progress toward program objectives relative to what was planned.

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 1.67 include:

1. Options for Personalizing the Way You View Pisces Data

- a. When you open Pisces for the first time after June 27, a new Welcome Screen will appear, offering you the opportunity to set My Stuff as your default startup view in Pisces, or opt for the Explorer, which shows all Fish and Wildlife Program projects and contracts. You can always change your mind and reset your defaults at any time, and no matter which option you choose, the other will always be available from the main toolbar.
- b. A new Preferences tab allows you to choose default settings for contract status filters and sorting for My Stuff, and set project and contract filters for Explorer.
- c. Also in the Preferences tab, you can:
 - turn off the spell check function, which is enabled by default,
 - set Explorer or My Stuff as your startup view,
 - type in your default username, so that next time you log in, Pisces will remember who you are, and you'll only need to enter your password.
- d. To set preferences, choose Tools > Options from the main menu at the top of the screen, and click on the Preferences tab.

2. My Stuff as a Permanent, Full-Screen Display with User-Focused Features

- a. Prior to this release, My Stuff was a dialog box that had to be closed. Now My Stuff can be the primary way you interact with Pisces data. For most Pisces users, My Stuff will be the fastest and easiest way to access the information that is most important to them.
- b. My Stuff now has a new Summary section to remind you about upcoming events (status reports due, contract expiration date coming up) for contracts on which you're a contact.
- c. Status reports are hyperlinked, so clicking them takes you directly to that status report.
- d. Any adjustments that you make to the column widths are now remembered so they should remain just like you set them the next time you open My Stuff, or enter Pisces.

3. Pisces Options: Connection tab

- a. For users whose organization utilizes a proxy server to access the internet, this tab will be used to set up a proxy server. See your IT department before changing any settings on this tab, unless instructed by Fish Support.
- b. You can also access the bandwidth tester from this tab. Clicking the button will perform a check of the throughput of your connection. This will be very useful when troubleshooting connectivity issues. You can also access this test directly from the main menu under Tools -> Bandwidth Test.

4. A new toolbar



- a. Two new icons have been added to the Pisces Toolbar.
 - Refresh is designed to work when My Stuff is the active window and allows the updating of the values on the screen without requiring the user to close My Stuff.
 - Spelling. For an in-depth look at Spell Checker click [here](#).

5. Planned versus Actual Metrics

- a. As a further enhancement toward focusing the Fish & Wildlife program on accomplishments, all future contract starts (August 1, 2006, and beyond) will quantify how much work is anticipated to be accomplished in the upcoming performance period. This will be accomplished by entering a value in the "Planned" column of the Metrics tab under Work Element details for those Work Elements requiring metrics. If a metric is shown that is not relevant to the work proposed it must be unchecked (this will gray out the row and insert NA into both columns). Do not leave the metric checked and enter zero, or NA.
- b. Once the contract is issued, the "Planned" column will be disabled, and the Actual column enabled. For any metric where a Planned value was given, an updated value will be expected, provided the work element was completed.

6. Spell Check

- a. Spellchecking is now available throughout the Pisces application for all editable fields. You will be able to check spelling one word at a time, or check all visible text.
- b. The spellchecking function in Pisces works much the same as in other Windows-based applications (e.g., Word). Pisces spellchecker, however, only works on the text currently visible (e.g., Contract Details) and does not regress through *all* portions of the contract/project; only in those that are editable by the user. For example, Spellchecker is not available for My Stuff or Explorer.
- c. You can choose whether to show spelling errors or not. By default, spellchecker is set to show errors (i.e., words not in the Pisces dictionary or your custom dictionary). To turn off this feature click the arrow to the right of the spelling icon and click (uncheck) Show Errors.
- d. Spellchecker includes a dictionary with many of the acronyms and words common to the Fish & Wildlife Program. However, you can still add words to the dictionary that are relevant to your particular contract or program.

7. Status Report Completion Guide Now Easier to Use

- a. As in previous versions, Pisces will check your draft status report against a list of [rules](#). However, unlike previous versions, you can now print the validation report Pisces performs, so you have a single page to refer to when correcting errors and omissions in your status report.
- b. The Guide is now divided into two areas: Milestones and Work Elements. If any work element has

been marked complete, Pisces will verify that its associated metrics, location, focal species, and/or updated work element budget been entered (if required).

- c. If any required data is missing from your status report, Pisces will open the Status Report Completion Guide and provide hyperlinks to the fields where you can add any missing data or fix existing data.
- d. Clicking on the Refresh button will update the list and remove each corrected milestone until all issues are resolved. For work elements, as the required data is completed, a green checkmark will display indicating you are done with that requirement.

8. Other Improvements

- a. **“No Deliverable Required” Option:** Pisces now allows you to clearly indicate that a deliverable is not required by unchecking the box above the Deliverable Title. In the past, when a Deliverable Title field was left blank, there was no way to tell whether there was no deliverable, or the contractor had forgotten to include it. For work elements where a deliverable is required, this box is disabled and cannot be unchecked.
- b. **Copy/Paste All Milestones:** All milestones associated with a work element can be copied at together, as compared to one at a time with previous releases. This can be especially useful if you are performing similar work in multiple locations (e.g., install fence) and the milestones are essentially identical.
- c. Two new options have been added to the Work Element Details > Location tab "Show locations from" dropdown menu to help **improve performance of adding a linked location:** Current Project's Province and Current Project's Subbasin. Given that loading the locations associated with all SOWs can take a long time, these two new options provide smaller, faster-loading lists of projects in the same area, which are more likely to be relevant when trying to choose a work element's location.
- d. You can now **export data** by using the right-click menu in the following Pisces grids:
 - WE (SOW tab)
 - Milestones (WE Details dialog)
 - WE Budgets (WE Budgets tab)
 - Status Report (SR tab)
 - Contract Contact list (Contract Details Summary tab)
 - Project Contact list (Project Details Summary tab)
 - Location (WE Details dialog)
 - Metrics (WE Details dialog)
 - Agreement Rev (SOW tab)
 - WE Search/Add dialog

Fixed Bugs and Enhancements

- The WE count displayed when you click on an Amendment link from Explorer > Contracts grid is now accurate.
- All right-click menus should work when a contract is open.
- In the Explorer Projects grid, there is now a tooltip for the Sponsor Type column heading. In the Explorer Contracts grid, there is now a tooltip for the Contractor Type column heading.
- Work Phone" field label has been replaced by "Business Phone" in the following locations: 1) Project Detail dialog > Summary tab > Project Contacts grid, 2) Contract Details > Summary tab > Grid at right, 3) Contact Search dialog > Near the bottom. The "Business Phone" field label should now be consistent throughout the application.
- Window titles are now consistently labeled "Project Details" and "Contract Details".
- When checkboxes in columns are disabled, they will now be grayed out to avoid misleading users into thinking they are editable (able to be checked or unchecked) when they are not.
- Saving a new WE sort order will no longer count as a change to the contract, and Pisces will not record the sorter's initials in the Inits column.
- Newly added contacts, as well as changes to an existing contact's first/last name or organization will now be immediately reflected in Pisces.
- Keystroke input on Lat/Long in Location & Metrics tabs is now limited to characters "0 thru 9, "-" and ".". Typing in any other characters will result in a beep and no characters written to the screen.

- The correct COTR should appear in the Contacts grid for each contract, even when a contract is transferred from one COTR to another. Duplicate COTR names that were appearing in the Contacts grid of some contracts have been removed.
- Ownership of reminders and notifications are now transferred when the COTR changes.
- The Print function now works on filtered projects.

End of Pisces v.1.67 Release Notes