

Release Notes for Pisces version 2.0

Release Date: **November 2, 2006**

The Fish & Wildlife Process Improvement Team is pleased to announce the latest release of Pisces: version 2.0. With this release, we have added lots of project-level information that has never before been available in Pisces, including a map showing the location of project work, proposal data, recommendations and decisions, project status, budgets, and summaries of status reports for each contract under the project. Also, BPA project managers can now enter and track work occurring under BPA internal agreements, which should also help contractors see costs that affect a project's budget. Contractors and BPA project managers now have access to BPA's budget decision history for each project (back to FY04), which includes the Start-of-Year budget and any adjustments, such as Within-Year budget modifications. This release also includes some contractor-requested improvements, such as clearer indicators when additional work element information is required and improved accessibility to the Statement of Work (SOW) Validation report.

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 and enhancements in Pisces version 2.0 include:

1. FY07-09 Proposal And Selection Data Viewable In New “Proposal” Tab

- a. For each project, we have integrated information and recommendations entered during the FY07-09 Project Solicitation and Selection process, including:
 - Sponsor-provided project information (contact information, objectives, budget, cost-share, etc)
 - Sponsor-entered work elements
 - Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) comments and recommendation
 - Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council (Council) comments and recommendation (*to be added when available*)
 - BPA comments and decision (*to be added when available*)

2. Project Budget Information, Including Budget Decision History, Viewable In New “Budget” Tab

- a. Pisces now shows the total project budget for each fiscal year, broken out first by capital and expense categories, then by contract budgets, BPA Internal work budgets, and unallocated funds.
- b. To help BPA project managers understand and manage potential problems with their project budgets, Pisces will automatically validate the budget when they click Close or Save. A dialog box will alert the project manager if any of the following are present:
 - Budget values that don't equal the sum of the work element (WE) budgets
 - Blank budget cells
 - Unallocated Budget values that are negative (over-allocations)
- c. Within the Project Details Budget tab, you can click a hyperlink to get a popup window with all the budget fields that led up to the BPA Budget Decision (BPA_APA) by fiscal year, as well as any adjustments.

- Council recommended Start-of-Year (SOY) Budget
- BPA SOY Budget
- BPA Adjusted Budget (BPA_APA)
- Adjustments for Within-Year modifications, reschedules, etc.

3. Summary Of All Status Reports Under A Project, Viewable In New “Status” Tab

- a. In this tab, Pisces presents aggregate data about each contract under the project (based on contract status reporting) including:
 - A link to the most recent status report, and the date on which it was accepted
 - The total number of deliverables, and the number and percent of these deliverables that are complete
 - The number of deliverables that have been marked green (on track), yellow (in danger of being late or incomplete), red (likely to be late or not completed)
- b. A link to a project status report with more detailed information about metrics and deliverables.

4. Pisces Tracks And Manages BPA Internal Work

- c. Pisces now supports the creation of Statements of Work for BPA internal work (project work done by internal arrangement, not external contract), for example, work to facilitate land acquisitions and the purchase of PIT tags. This will help BPA project managers track the progress of all activities that affect a project budget.
- d. BPA project managers will also be able to report status on BPA internal work statements. Pisces will validate that these reports have all of the required information, just as it does for contract status reports.
- e. For BPA Project Managers, My Stuff will now display BPA Internal work in addition to contracts in My Contracts grid.
- f. Reports that cover project-related costs will now include costs associated with BPA Internal work as well.

5. Better Access To Pisces Location Information

- a. A new Map tab for the Project Details window shows all locations that have been entered by the project’s contractors indicating where work is occurring. Although users cannot add points to the map from this window, all other map functions (such as Zoom In, Zoom Out, Center, Display Pisces data associated with this point) are active.

6. Smarter Indicator Columns For Work Element Data (blank, half moon, full moon)

- a. On the SOW tab's Work Element (WE) grid, the three indicator columns (metrics, location, focal species) are now “tri-state”, which means they will now use shape to tell the user one of three things:
 - No indicator: WE does not require additional data (metrics, location, focal species)
 - Half-moon indicator: WE requires additional data and it has not yet been entered
 - Full moon/bullet indicator: WE requires data and it has already been entered

7. More Auto-Added Milestones And Milestone Descriptions

- a. To help contractors capture all of BPA’s requirements in their Statements of Work, Pisces automatically adds some standard milestones to certain work elements. These milestones include milestone descriptions that specify what is required to complete the milestone. Pisces already adds standard milestones for work elements such as WE# 119, Manage and Administer Projects, and will now automatically add milestones for:

- WE# 182, PIT Tags
- WE# 5, Land Purchase
- WE# 132, Produce Annual Report

8. Make Results Of SOW Validation Report More Visible

- a. In order to raise awareness of the existing SOW Validation report, we have added a new column to the first grid on the SOW tab. This column lets users know whether the SOW validation report has been run, and whether there are any unresolved or potential issues with the SOW (i.e., missing data). The column heading and indicators look like this:

Rev	Type	Status	! , ?	Request #	WE Change Type	SOW Status	Start
1	Contract: 20620 REL 8	Issued	# , #	16		Locked	4/1/2006

- b. In the figure above, the “#,#” symbols indicate that either the SOW has not yet been validated or data is available but has not yet been refreshed. Clicking these symbols will run the report or refresh the statistics from the last time the report was run.
- c. When numbers appear below the “!,?” column heading, the first number (under the “!” indicator) refers to the number of problems that need to be fixed, and the second number refers to the number of potential problems that may need your attention. For example, the numbers “3,7” under the column heading “!,?” mean “As of the last date the SOW Validation report was run, there are 3 problems that need to be fixed and 7 potential problems with this SOW”.

9. Rapid Focal Species Associations

- a. To support quicker, less tedious association of focal species to work elements, Pisces will assign the same Primary and Secondary Focal Species to all work elements in one click.

10. Miscellaneous Enhancements

- a. The toolbar's Refresh button now works on the Contract Details window. When two users are collaborating on the phone, discussing their contract/SOW and one of them makes a change; the user can click the Refresh button to see the change. Users will be prompted to save changes if they have any unsaved changes.
- b. Color shading has been improved in the status report window.
- c. My Stuff now has Closed and History contracts sorted together, and Complete and Issued contracts sorted together. This sorting scheme reflects the fact that both Issued and Complete contracts can still be edited, while Closed and History contracts cannot.

11. Pisces Has Been Updated To Run on .NET Framework 2.0

- a. Finally, as many of our users know from our email communications over the last few months, Pisces has been upgraded to run on .NET Framework 2.0. All Pisces users must now have .NET Framework 2.0 installed in order to continue running Pisces after this release. For those with administrative rights to their computers, upgrading will be a breeze – Pisces will install .NET Framework 2.0 for you along with the new version of Pisces, version 2.0. **If you do not have administrative rights to your computer, please contact your IT support staff for assistance.**
- b. Microsoft has fixed a number of problems that plagued the previous version, .NET Framework 1.1, a few of which were preventing some Pisces users from connecting to Pisces. Using .NET Framework 2.0 will also allow us to simplify our application update/deployment process, lower maintenance costs of the code-base, and increase application performance.
- c. If you have administrative rights to your computer, you may wish to uninstall the previous version of Pisces in order to free up disk space. This is *optional*. If you try to open the old version of Pisces, you'll automatically be redirected to the new version, so there's no danger of having dueling versions of Pisces on your desktop.
 - Steps to uninstall Pisces version 1:
 - From your Windows Start menu, select Settings and then Control Panel.
 - In the Control Panel, click Add/Remove Programs.
 - Select Pisces (not Pisces 2) in the list and click "Remove"

12. Fixed Bugs and Enhancements

- When Pisces auto-adds milestones to a work element, "SYS", rather than the user, will now be logged as the change maker.
- The June accrual milestone has been removed from the list of auto-added milestones for WE# 119, Manage and Administer Projects.
- SOW grids and Contacts grid will now remember a user's column width setting.
- We've updated the text for the dialog prompt that appears when WE budget exceeds performance period budget.
- The contract grid will now automatically be refreshed when a user resizes the My Stuff window.
- Status Report Milestone labels will now be included in Notification messages.
- Right-click menus now work for the Contracts grid on the Summary tab of the Project Details window.
- The Export option has been added to the right-click menu for the Project Contacts grid.
- The Work Element Guide will now pick up deliverables that have just been marked complete.
- When a user enters \$0 for a WE budget, \$0 will now appear in the SOW report (rather than a blank).
- If all requirements have been met in the SOW Validation report, a friendly message will appear to notify the user of this.

End of Pisces v.2.0 Release Notes