

# Release Notes for Pisces version 2.1

Release Date: **January 23, 2007**

The Fish & Wildlife Process Improvement Team is pleased to announce the latest release of Pisces: version 2.1. This release is largely devoted to functionality that supports streamlining of environmental review and compliance documentation for fish and wildlife projects.

As a Federal agency, BPA is responsible for ensuring that each project it funds complies with the environmental laws and regulations to which BPA is subject, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). To fulfill its responsibilities under the NEPA for implementation of its 2007-09 fish and wildlife projects, BPA is issuing a Record of Decision (ROD) tiered to its [Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan Environmental Impact Statement](#) (DOE/EIS 0312, April 2003). The publication of this comprehensive document will reduce the effort needed to review individual projects. [For additional information about BPA's environmental compliance, planning and policy analysis activities, please click [here](#).]

Included in this release are tools to help BPA's environmental compliance managers plan their workloads, focus on work of greatest concern, and quickly generate reports via a new Environmental Compliance (EC) tab in Pisces. These same tools will provide contractors and BPA project managers with easy access to more complete information about the status of environmental review for their projects. Finally, automation of previously manual steps will further reduce time and labor costs associated with environmental review.

Also in this release, we're beginning to build the foundation for automated report generation for other kinds of information (accomplishments, investments per focal species, location, etc). Technical infrastructure improvements, though invisible to end users, will enable us to deliver future functionality and to lower our support and maintenance costs for the application. We've also included a few items specifically designed to help our contractors work more efficiently and effectively in Pisces; for example, enabling quick copying of information and work elements from the project proposal tab to a contract's SOW tab.

**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 2.1 include:

## 1. Environmental compliance (EC) review features:

- a. EC Milestones will be automatically added to all work elements that require EC review.
- b. A new column called "Type" in the Work Element Details window will identify which milestones are related to environmental compliance.
- c. New EC tab: while primarily a tool for EC leads to manage and track the environmental review process for each contract, this tab also provides read-only information to contractors and BPA project managers about the status of each work element's environmental review. Since work cannot proceed until EC requirements are met, the information in this tab is especially important to contractors and BPA project managers for planning.
- d. Automatic status setting of EC milestones: Pisces will automatically mark EC milestones complete when all EC requirements – managed by the EC lead – are "Complete" or "NA" for a given work element. This will save the contractor the extra step of manually marking this milestone complete on contract status reports.
- e. Smarter EC indicators (half/full moons): the Work Element grid's indicator columns have been updated to give users more information about the status of environmental compliance review for each work element:

No moon: No EC review required for that work element

Half moon (◐): One or more EC requirements for that work element are incomplete

Full moon (●): All EC requirements for that work element are complete

f. Three new EC reports are available:

- **Environmental Compliance Workload report:** shows which EC leads are assigned to which contracts, and the type/amount of environmental compliance required for each contract. To access this report, go to the Reports menu; select “Activity Progress” from the drop-down menu, then select “Environmental Compliance Workload”.
- **Summarize Environmental Compliance for all work elements in a SOW:** shows the status of each environmental compliance requirement associated with each work element in the SOW, plus location information. This report is accessible from the Contract Actions grid (top grid on the SOW Tab). Right-click on any contract action, and choose “Summarize Env. Compliance...”.
- **Summarize Environmental Compliance for a single work element:** From the EC tab of the Work Element Details window, click on the “View Report” hyperlink on the right-hand side to see the status of the environmental compliance requirements associated with the selected work element.

## 2. Quickly copy a proposed work element to a contract SOW

- a. Users can now quickly copy a proposed work element from the project’s Proposal tab to a contract’s SOW. This feature leverages the data already entered during project solicitation and selection, which has been integrated into Pisces as of the previous release. Thus contractors will not have to re-enter the data they already manually entered in another place.
- b. To access this feature, see the new right-click menu option from the list of proposed WEs on the Proposal tab.

**NOTE:** After copying from a proposal, users will still need to furnish a number of details, starting with a Deliverable Title and Specification. These fields were not part of the proposal form, but are necessary to create the deliverable milestone and make use of the WE end date entered in the proposal form. Pisces will paste in placeholder text for the Deliverable Title and Specification; the user must update these fields before submitting a final SOW.

## Fixed Bugs and Enhancements

- To the relief of grammarians everywhere, “Tile Vertical” and “Tile Horizontal” have been changed on the Window menu to “Tile Vertically” and “Tile Horizontally”, respectively. Spelling errors in work element definitions, the Contract Notifications dialog, and the Status Report Wizard have also been fixed.
- The bandwidth tester is working once again.
- Tab order is fixed throughout the application for our avid keyboard users / mouse eschewers.
- Sort glyph is now correct on the Milestone grid: upwards arrow sorts in descending order and downwards arrow sorts in ascending order.
- In the Contact Details window, users will no longer get false prompts to save pending changes when no changes have been made, or when the user has clicked Cancel.
- Entering a latitude or longitude of 10 decimal digits will no longer result in an error message; 10-digit entries will be rounded to fit the supported format.