

Status of the Western Native Fishes Database - October 2006

Garcia and Associates (GANDA) has begun editing the distribution data for the continental U.S. on the Western Native Fish Species Distribution Database. We anticipate completing the edits and revisions and producing updated maps in time for the mid-year WDAFS ExComm meeting in November. Some key activities that GANDA has participated in since May 2006 include:

- Development of a revision tracking program in Access
- Review of edits provided by AZ, AK, CO, WY, UT, and HI.
- Compilation of reviewer responses and outstanding committee member reviews
- One conference call with the Western Native Fishes (WNF) Committee
- Attendance and presentation at 2006 WDAFS annual meeting in Bozeman
- Finalization of Mexican states HUC-equivalents
- Identification of appropriate Canadian HUC-equivalents and fisheries data for BC.

Database Population

We are editing and revising the existing database and continuing to add references to the bibliographic database. We have the fisheries data for BC on hand and will begin entering it into the database when we have completed the edits on the US data.

Database Content Evaluation

We set an initial deadline of March 15, 2006 for the WNF committee members to complete their reviews and submit comments to GANDA. We received reviews for AZ, AK, CO, WY, UT and HI. We have commitments from reviewers for ID and WA. We still need to identify reviewers for NM, NV, MT, and WA.

The WNF committee decided to expand the scope of the project to include species native to the WDAFS region, but occurring outside of their native range. To accomplish this we will need to define a native range for each species based on available data and overlay these areas on the distribution maps for each species. Occurrences outside of the native range will be colored differently to accentuate them.

HUCs and GIS

Our Mexican HUC-equivalent digitizing project is completed. Clint Kellar consulted with Ryan Smith of the Nature Conservancy and has reconciled the metadata issue.

Jeanne Knox and Clint Kellar have worked with the British Columbia Resources Information Branch to determine which of their watershed layers will be the most similar to the USGS 4⁺ code HUC designation. Jeanne has obtained data from the BC Fisheries has a Fisheries Information Summary System (FISS) on fish distribution information by watershed. Once we have the appropriate level of watershed codes input into the database to create a base layer, we can begin importing the fish data and generating preliminary maps. We have been warned that much of the area has not been systematically surveyed- so some data may be lacking.

Species Research and Data Entry

Once we have completed the edits on the US data, we will hand transfer distribution data from maps in the “Fishes of Mexico” book to the database to generate HUC maps using the GIS. The mapper for Dr. Miller’s book indicated that none of the maps were generated electronically. Therefore, we will not be able to create shapefiles from her data without this step.

Public Outreach

Ms. Roulson presented a paper on the status of the WNF database at the WDAFS meeting in May 2006. GANDA also set up a station where WDAFS members could “beta-test” the database during the vendor and poster sessions at the meeting.

I have registered for the Fisheries Database Summit in Salt Lake City next month. Although I will not be presenting any materials, I will take the laptop and be able to provide demonstrations of the database for attendees. This is a nationally advertised summit, so I anticipate that there will be people from other regions as well as WDAFS members.

I will also attend the November mid-year WDAFS ExComm meeting in Portland and have made arrangements to give a presentation to the WDAFS officers there.

Future Activities

GANDA would like to reinstate the monthly conference calls so that we can provide informal project updates and answer any questions from WNF committee members. With the new additions to the project scope on native distributions, it would be beneficial to have ongoing WNF committee input.

Questions or Comments?

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