

Work Task C26: Evaluation of Raceway Rearing of Razorback Sucker at Lake Mead Fish Hatchery

FY08 Estimates	FY08 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY08	FY09 Approved Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate
\$100,000	\$621.85	\$621.85	\$100,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$0

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Start Date: FY08

Expected Duration: FY11

Long-term Goal: Rear RASU of sufficient quantity and quality to accomplish the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation and Species Research Programs.

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, and RASU8.

Location: Reach 1, Lake Mead, Boulder City, NV.

Purpose: Evaluate raceway rearing of RASU to improve physical conditioning prior to stocking.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): This research is complementary to work conducted under Work Task C10. If successful (i.e., shows benefit to fish and is cost effective), this action may be included in the Fish Augmentation Program (Section B) in the future. Other rearing of RASU is being conducted at this facility under Work Task B6.

Project Description: This project will investigate and evaluate rearing of RASU in flowing raceways at Lake Mead SFH. The study will investigate ways to deliver food, efficiency of food conversion, feeding rate, growth of RASU, and physical condition of fish. End-of-year results will be compared with similar parameters for RASU being reared for the LCR MSCP in non-flow facilities (Willow Beach NFH and Bubbling Ponds SFH).

This research is designed to take advantage of a unique opportunity at Lake Mead SFH. Research underway at Achii Hanyo by the USGS and USFWS is showing that RASU acclimated to flow have improved swimming performance. This may improve post-stocking survival for fish released by the LCR MSCP. Currently, there are no facilities rearing fish for the LCR MSCP using flowing raceways. Due to current water elevations of Lake Mead, intake water temperatures at Lake Mead SFH are too warm for rearing rainbow trout (summer water temperatures in 2006 exceeded 75°F). The NDOW is investigating ways to acquire water from deeper, cooler areas of Lake Mead. The current timeline projects that acquisition of a new water source is 3-5 years away. In the meantime, all or parts of the Lake Mead SFH will be idle. This work proposes to use RASU from lakes Mead and Mohave to examine and evaluate the

practicality and cost effectiveness of feeding and growing RASU in raceways at Lake Mead SFH.

Previous Activities: Reclamation, SNWA, and NDOW have cooperatively been rearing RASU from Lake Mead in tanks at the hatchery (See B6).

FY08 Accomplishments: Meetings were held at Lake Mead SFH to evaluate physical conditions of raceways. Due to shut down of water lines and pumps for quagga mussel removal, no actions were taken beyond development of a cooperative agreement between Reclamation and NDOW. Both parties agreed to slip this project one year. Construction of the test apparatus will be completed in 2009 with field testing to occur for two consecutive summers following development.

FY09 Activities: Work will begin with construction of the proposed test apparatus followed by a brief evaluation to assess available flow and temperature ranges. Rearing trials are expected to begin in May. These trials will evaluate such parameters as growth rate, condition factor, and food conversion efficiency.

Proposed FY10 Activities: Results from the previous study year will be analyzed, and methods for evaluating growth rate, condition factor, and food conversion efficiency will be refined as necessary. Rearing trials for juvenile and subadult RASU will continue, beginning in spring and summer months as warm water becomes available.

Pertinent Reports: The scope of work and cooperative agreement between Reclamation and NDOW are available upon request from the LCR MSCP.