

## Work Task C41: Role of Artificial Habitat in Survival of RASU and BONY

FY08 Estimates	FY08 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY08	FY09 Approved Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

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**Start Date:** FY10

**Expected Duration:** FY12

**Long-term Goal:** Assess effectiveness of fish augmentation program.

**Conservation Measures:** BONY3, BONY5, RASU3, RASU5, RASU6

**Location:** Reach 2 and 3.

**Purpose:** To assess use and role of artificial reefs and structures by native fishes released by the LCR MSCP.

**Connections to Other Work Tasks (past and future):** This work is related to all work tasks in Section B that provide RASU and BONY for augmentation stocking. Study results will add to the database used to complete work task D8.

**Project Description:** Approximately 800 acres of artificial fish habitat have been constructed and deployed in Lake Havasu over the past 15 years. Similar structures have recently been placed into coves on Lake Mohave. RASU have been periodically observed by SCUBA divers in and around these structures, along with numerous species of exotic fishes. This study will attempt to determine whether these structures provide a benefit to native fishes being released through the LCR MSCP. The information will be used to determine future stocking locations. For example, if the structures provide a benefit and are used as cover by native fishes, fish could be released in the vicinity of these structures. If not so, such areas would be avoided.

**Previous Activities:** N/A

**FY08 Accomplishments:** N/A

**FY09 Activities:** None, initial study design will be accomplished with funds from G3.

**Proposed FY10 Activities:** Existing artificial reefs on Lake Havasu and Lake Mohave will be selected as study sites. PIT-tag antennae will be constructed and deployed on and around structures by Reclamations' dive team. Marked fish will be released in the vicinity and observed.

Use of artificial structures by the fish will be recorded. Data will be analyzed and data developed into annual reports.

**Pertinent Reports:** N/A