

Work Task C50: Food Habits of Adult RASU Below Hoover Dam

FY09 Estimates	FY09 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09	FY10 Approved Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$75,000	\$0

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Start Date: FY11

Expected Duration: FY12

Long-term Goal: To maintain an effective fish augmentation program.

Conservation Measures: RASU6

Location: Colorado River between Hoover Dam and Willow Beach

Purpose: To update life history information for RASU.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): This work is related to C12 and D8.

Project Description: Literature reviews show that feeding habits of RASU are based on indirect observation, usually from post-mortem examination of stomach contents. Natural environments were generally too silty and turbid for direct observations. Augmentation stockings from the LCR MSCP have resulted in a population of 200 adult RASU using gravel shoals below Hoover Dam. The water clarity is extremely good, allowing for high quality video capture of feeding activities of these fish.

This work will utilize Reclamation's dive team to video-record feeding activities of the fish and to collect substrate samples from feeding areas. Samples will be analyzed for composition and volume of food items. Electrofishing will be conducted to capture adult RASU from this area, and stomach contents will be captured by lavage (back-flushing with water). Data will be analyzed and reported.

Previous Activities: This effort stems from preliminary observations from activities conducted under C12 and D8.

FY09 Accomplishments: None; this is a new start in FY11.

FY10 Activities: This is a new start in FY11.

Proposed FY11 Activities: The first year of the study will focus on capture of feeding activities by underwater video and collection of substrate-bearing food items.

Pertinent Reports: N/A