

Work Task C53: Sonic Telemetry of Juvenile Flannelmouth Suckers in Reach 3

FY12 Estimate	FY12 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY12	FY13 Approved Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate
\$120,000	\$105,869.79	\$54,806.89	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0

Contact: Jeff Lantow, (702) 293-8557, jlantow@usbr.gov

Start Date: FY12

Expected Duration: FY15

Long-term Goal: Support flannelmouth sucker (FLSU) conservation.

Conservation Measures: FLSU1 and FLSU3.

Location: Reach 3, Arizona/Nevada/California.

Purpose: Determine habitat use and preference for juvenile FLSU in Reach 3. Provide resource managers with recommendations to enhance juvenile flannelmouth sucker habitats as a requirement for LCR MSCP habitat creation goals.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Work conducted under this task is related to C15 and C45.

Project Description: Flannelmouth sucker were reintroduced into the Colorado River below Davis Dam by AGFD in 1976 by transfer of fish captured at the confluence of the Colorado and Paria rivers at Lee's Ferry, Arizona. This stock has persisted for three decades and now represents the only known population of this native species in the Colorado River downstream of Davis Dam.

The LCR MSCP completed five years of research on this population. The study contacted all life stages of flannelmouth sucker and telemetry of adults gave us great insight as to movements and habitat use of adult flannelmouth suckers. However, only 9 juvenile flannelmouth suckers greater than 100 mm and less than 350 mm total length were contacted during this study. Previous studies by U.S. Geological Survey in the 20 river miles above Lake Havasu had similar difficulty contacting juveniles, but found that while flannelmouth sucker contacts were rare, the majority (85%) of flannelmouth captured consisted of these smaller size classes. This study will define the habitats used by these younger fish and provide managers a complete life history of FLSU within Reach 3.

Previous Activities: This study will build upon the previous work accomplished through work task C15. Juvenile RASU and FLSU tagging studies were accomplished under D8 in preparation for this project. Larval FLSU were captured near Laughlin, Nevada, and are currently being reared as a potential source of juvenile fish.

FY12 Accomplishments: This study was initiated and attempts were made to secure juvenile wild flannelmouth sucker to implant with sonic tags. Following several weeks of effort, zero juvenile fish were captured and the hatchery-reared fish were not yet to size. All effort and funding related to this project was suspended until FY13, which is reflected in the obligation being higher than the expenditures.

FY13 Activities: Hatchery reared flannelmouth or surrogates from another section of the Colorado River will be used to initiate the telemetry work. Up to 30 hatchery-reared suckers of varying sizes will be selected and tagged with appropriate-sized transmitters. Additional tags will be available for any wild captured flannelmouth suckers encountered while in the field. Tagged fish will be released near Laughlin and tracking will commence immediately following their release. Habitat data will be collected throughout the tracking process to determine habitat preferences.

Proposed FY14 Activities: Activities will be similar to those from FY12; specifics may vary depending on FY13 results.

Pertinent Reports: A study plan was developed in FY11 and is available upon request.