

## Work Task B6: Lake Mead Fish Hatchery

FY13 Estimate	FY13 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY13	FY14 Approved Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate
\$100,000	\$96,823.96	\$433,266.35	\$125,000	\$255,000	\$245,000	\$205,000

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**Start Date:** FY05

**Expected Duration:** FY55

**Long-term Goal:** Fish augmentation

**Conservation Measures:** BONY3, BONY4, RASU3, RASU4, RASU 5, RASU7, and RASU8.

**Location:** Reach 1, Lake Mead, Boulder City, Nevada.

**Purpose:** Support Lake Mead RASU studies and contribute BONY and RASU to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future):** Activities at Lake Mead Fish Hatchery contribute to other LCR MSCP work tasks, including B11, C13, C53, C57, C61, and D8.

**Project Description:** The Lake Mead Hatchery is managed and operated by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). Reclamation and NDOW are cooperatively rearing both BONY and RASU at this facility in support of the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program. BONY for this work task are produced and supplied by SNARRC, and RASU are wild caught individuals from lakes Mead and Mohave. Funds from this work task provide for the staff, equipment, feed, and chemicals necessary to rear these fish. Fish produced through this work task will be used to support research and augmentation in reaches 1-5.

**Previous Activities:** In 2005, Reclamation assisted with the installation of a single 500-gallon fiberglass tank for the purpose of rearing RASU collected from Lake Mead. Installation took place in the new native fish room and included plumbing for air and water delivery lines, standpipe and standpipe screen construction, and placement of a central drain line. The native fish room was completed in 2006 with the addition of twenty-five 10-gallon aquaria, four 240-gallon fiberglass troughs, and six 700-gallon fiberglass tanks. Since 2007, larval and fingerling RASU, from lakes Mead and Mohave respectively, have been brought into the facility and reared in these tanks. Subsequently these fish have been transferred to ponds at the Overton Wildlife Management Area (OWMA) for additional grow-out, used for research and monitoring projects in Lake

Mead, and stocked into Lake Mohave. Additional rearing space was made available at the hatchery in 2012 in continued support of the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program. This additional rearing capacity will be necessary in future years when the number of fish stocked annually into reaches 3-5 is expected to increase. This additional space is also currently supporting FLSU rearing for research projects occurring in reach 3.

**FY13 Accomplishments:** Only minimal stockings of Lake Mohave RASU occurred during FY13 as a large portion of these fish are being reared to 500 mm and require additional time for grow-out. These fish will be stocked into Lake Mohave as they reach target size, and additional fish brought to the hatchery in subsequent years are anticipated to be used for Reach 3-5 stockings. Currently, over 3,400 RASU from multiple year classes remain on station. These fish will be stocked or made available for research purposes as needs are identified.

No RASU larvae were collected from Lake Mead during FY13. Additionally, no RASU were transferred to the OWMA during FY13 due to renovation of Honeybee Pond and the estimated size of the current RASU population in Center Pond. Renovation of Honeybee Pond was completed in the fall of 2013, and it is anticipated that stocking of Lake Mead origin RASU at the OWMA will resume in FY14.

**FY14 Activities:** The NDOW will continue to operate the Lake Mead Hatchery for RASU and FLSU production. Operations will include grow-out and stocking of native fish from the 2009-2012 year classes, capture and rearing of up to 500 wild-caught RASU larvae from Lake Mead, rearing of 5,000 fingerling Lake Mohave RASU, and rearing of up to 100 juvenile FLSU from Lake Mead and Reach 3 for research.

Additionally in FY14, the NDOW will receive approximately 60,000 fingerling BONY for rearing. The majority of these fish were donated by the Wahweap Warmwater Fish Hatchery (Utah Division of Wildlife) in early FY14, and while it is more fish than originally planned for, the LCR MSCP and NDOW are taking advantage of these fish for future augmentation needs. The additional funding requested in FY14, and in subsequent years, will support rearing this increased number of fish.

The NDOW will also continue to make improvements to the hatchery facility, including an electrical upgrade that will enhance their ability to flow condition native fish prior to stocking. Flow conditioning at the Lake Mead Hatchery will support stockings carried out under Work Task C61 as early as FY15.

**Proposed FY15 Activities:** Rearing and stocking of native fish from previous year classes will continue. Hatchery stocks will be augmented with 2015 year-class RASU larvae from Lake Mead, and the NDOW will receive and rear up to 6,000 additional fingerling BONY and RASU from SNARRC and Lake Mohave, respectively. Adult and sub-adult Lake Mead RASU will also be delivered to the OWMA and additional off-channel grow-out sites as necessary. It is anticipated that the Lake Mead Hatchery will begin pre-stocking flow conditioning of native fish and stock approximately 2,000 Lake Mohave RASU towards annual fish augmentation goals in FY15. This flow-conditioning work was initiated under C26 and these experimental alternative stocking trials will be

conducted under C61. BONY stockings from Lake Mead Hatchery are expected to begin in FY16.

**Pertinent Reports:** Annual administrative reports are available on request.