Work Task B8: Fish Tagging Equipment

FY13 Estimate	FY13 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY13	FY14 Approved Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate
$100,000	$96,819.84	$686,824.80	$100,000	$125,000	$125,000	$125,000

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Start Date: FY04

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Acquire and maintain supply of fish-tagging materials and equipment for marking fish to be released for research and for augmentation stockings.

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, RASU5, RASU6, BONY3, BONY4, and BONY5.

Location: N/A

Purpose: Fish released into the LCR by the LCR MSCP will be marked for identification purposes to assess survival and distribution.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Activities are related to all work tasks that result in fish stocking for augmentation, fish research, and fish monitoring.

Project Description: The LCR MSCP will rear and stock more than 1.2 million native fish into the LCR. Fish will be marked to assess distribution and survival and for effective research and decision making. Funds provide for both tagging materials and detection equipment needed during monitoring and research. Reclamation anticipates the need for fish tags and tagging equipment throughout the life of the program.

Previous Activities: Fish released into the LCR have been tagged with 400-kHz PIT tags (Lake Mead and Lake Mohave, reaches 1 and 2), 125-kHz PIT tags (Davis Dam to Parker Dam, Reach 3), and wire tags (Davis Dam to Imperial Dam, reaches 3, 4, and 5). Recaptured fish below Parker Dam have been retagged with 125-kHz PIT tags. In addition, both radio tags and sonic tags have been implanted in fish used for research on lakes Mead, Mohave, and Havasu. Fin clipping and spaghetti tags (or Floy tags) have been used for short-term survival studies in some rearing and grow-out ponds.

A decision was made in 2006 to begin using new 134.2-kHz frequency PIT tags. These new tags have a greater detection range than the previously used tags (12 inches versus 2 inches away from fish) and will allow for testing and deployment of remote listening stations within spawning areas. Purchase of the new PIT tags, tag readers, and antennae

began in 2006. A total of 72,651 RASU and 17,454 BONY were PIT-tagged and/or wire-tagged and released into the LCR between 2006 and 2008. More recent stockings have included 24,299 RASU and 6,579 BONY in 2009, 22,476 RASU and 4,993 BONY in 2010, and 25,598 RASU and 7,122 BONY in 2011. A total of 27,105 RASU and 7,821 BONY were tagged and released into the LCR during 2012.

FY13 Accomplishments: PIT tags, tagging equipment, and tag readers were purchased as needed to mark fish for monitoring and research. A total of 28,210 RASU and 6,318 BONY were tagged and released into the LCR during 2013.

FY14 Activities: PIT tags, tagging equipment, and tag readers will be purchased as needed to mark fish for monitoring and research. As augmentation goals and numbers of tagged fish increase, FY budget estimates will also increase to meet these needs.

Proposed FY15 Activities: PIT tags, tagging equipment, and tag readers will continue to be purchased as needed to mark fish for monitoring and research. Budget estimates reflect increased fish number goals and needs for additional supplies and equipment to support ongoing tagging and remote sensing research and monitoring efforts.

Pertinent Reports: N/A