

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FISH PREDATION ON QUAGGA MUSSELS

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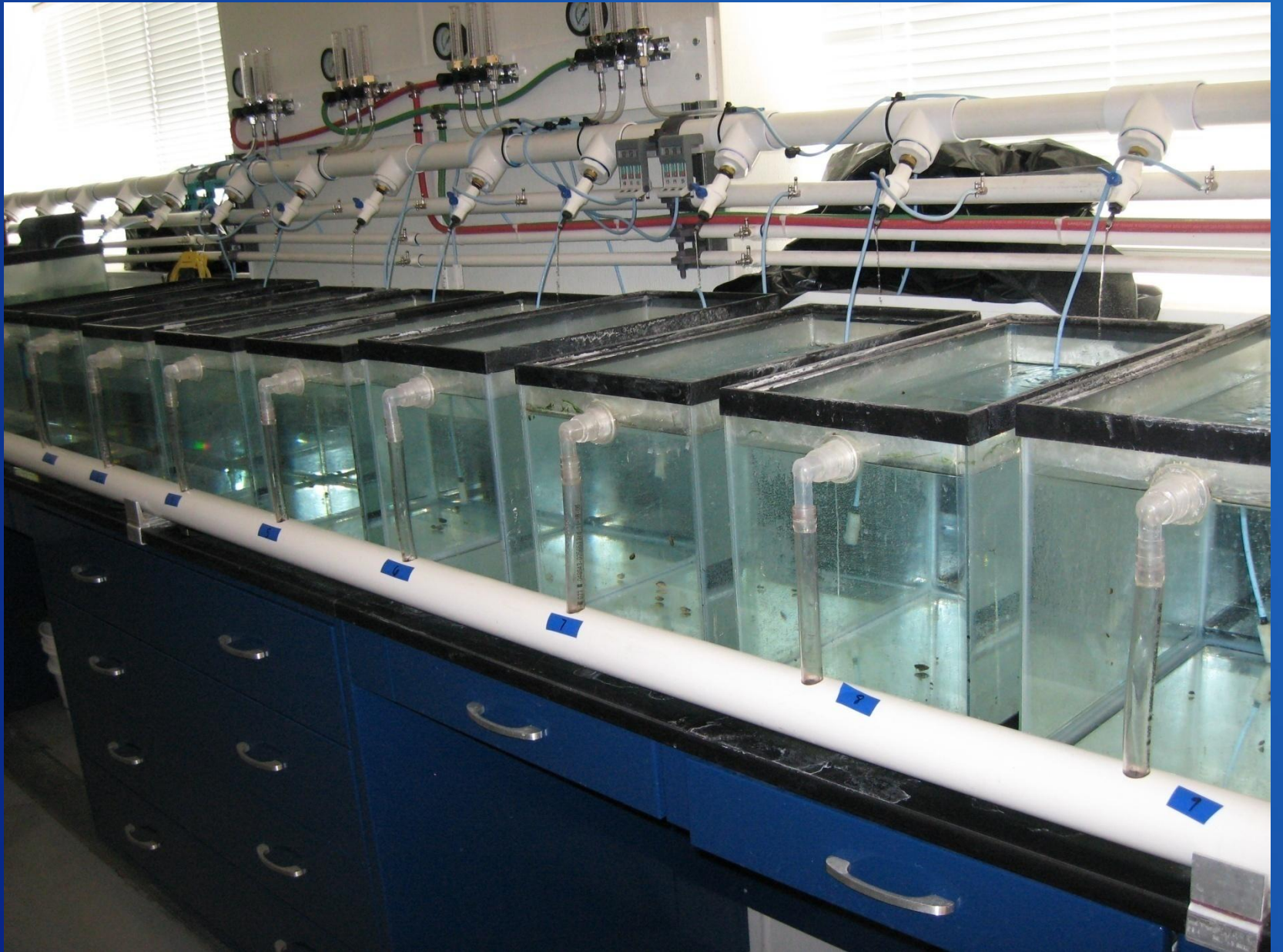
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



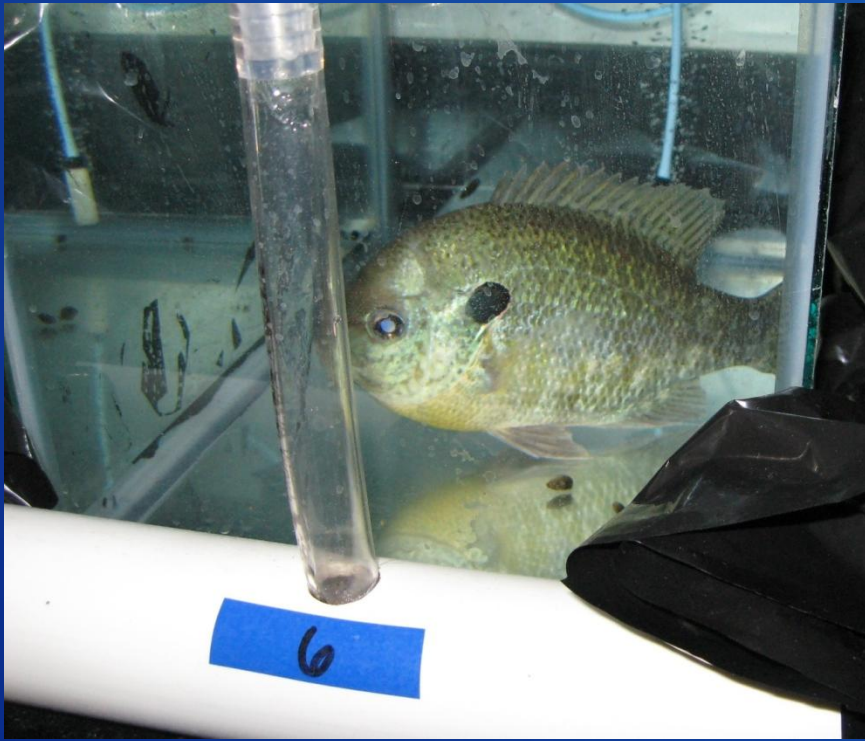
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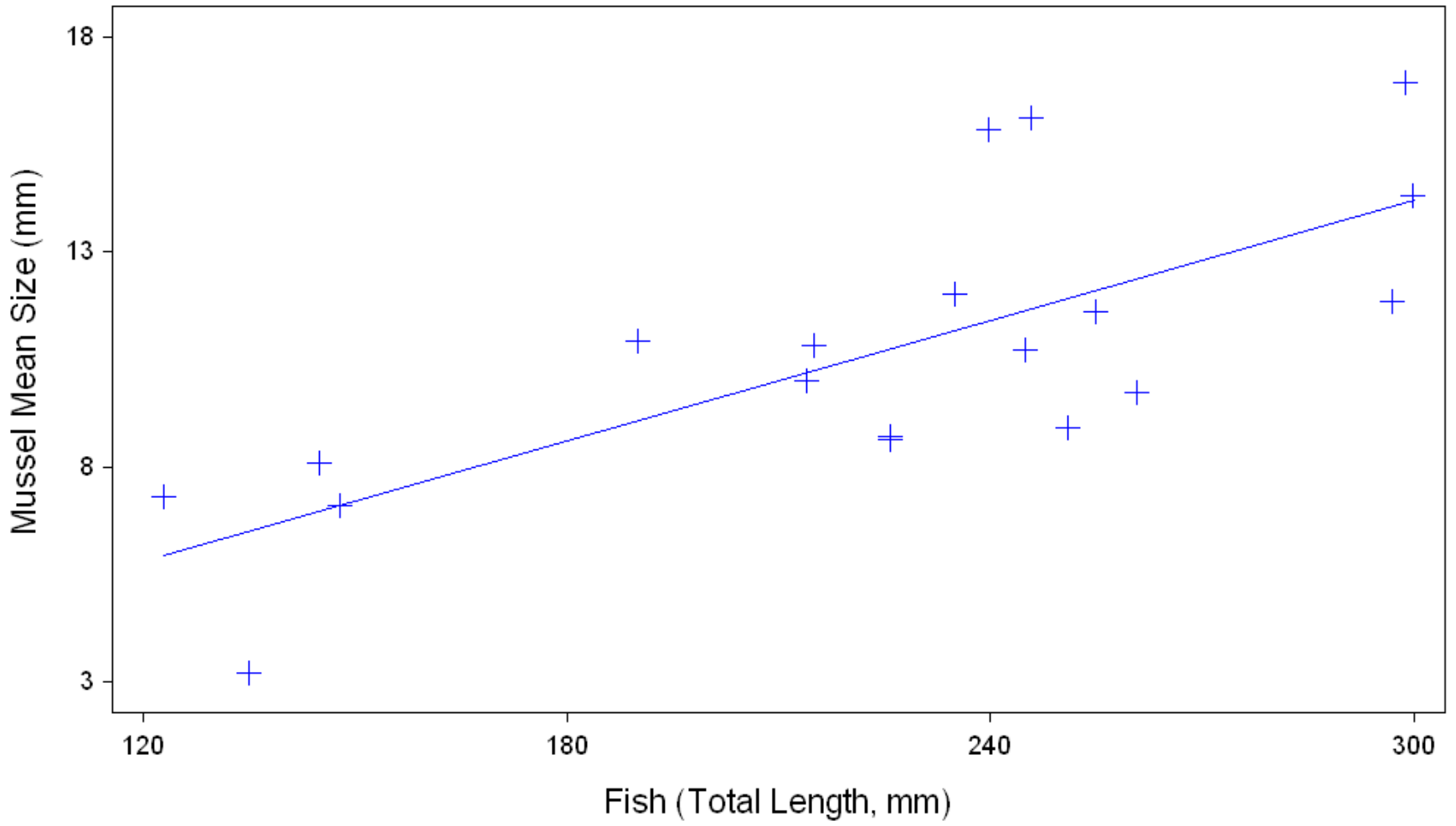


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- 36 fish tested for 48 hrs
 - ✓ 27 redear sunfish (123-325 mm TL)
 - ✓ 7 bluegill (134-214 mm TL)
 - ✓ 2 redear hybrids (213-279 mm TL)
- 83.3% consumed mussels (including individual and clumped, 3.1-26.8mm)



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Summary of fish stomach contents from upper Lake Havasu and Lake Mohave, spring 2010.

Species	N	Size (TL, mm)	Contents¹
Smallmouth bass	9	206-402	fish, crayfish
Largemouth bass	16	290-485	fish, crayfish
Channel catfish	14	340-670	fish, crayfish, snails, quagga mussels (2) ¹
Yellow bullhead	14	258-349	fish, crayfish
Striped bass	11	430-680	fish, crayfish
Black crappie	2	240-316	empty
Redear sunfish	21	185-327	quagga mussels (11) ¹ , clams, crayfish
Bluegill	3	180-203	quagga mussels (1) ¹
RedearXBluegill hybrid	1	196	quagga mussels (1) ¹
Common carp	15	311-660	quagga mussels (3) ¹
Rainbow trout	4	310-338	empty

¹ # of fish with quagga mussels in stomach

- Most redear sunfish and bluegill readily eat quagga mussels
- Fish appear to select mussels based on size
- Mussels are crushed/destroyed



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Red swamp crayfish



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