

Work Task A3:	Electro-Fishing Boat Procurement
Point of Contact:	Tom Burke, LC-2300 (702) 293-8788
Purpose:	Acquire an electro-fishing boat for monitoring of native fishes released into the lower Colorado River. Electro-fishing is one of many tools used in fishery management. The electro-fishing equipment can be used to either drive fish and/or directly capture fish.
Conservation Measure:	MRM1
Long-term Goal:	The two principal fishes to be reared and stocked are the razorback sucker and bonytail. This electro-fishing boat will facilitate activities related to assessing survival of these fishes and recording their distribution. Such survival and distribution data will be used for future decision making.
FY04 Obligation:	\$58,823 was obligated for procurement of the electro-fishing boat.
FY04 Accomplishment:	The electro-shocking fishing boat was delivered to Reclamation and put into service.
Project Description:	The Fish Augmentation Program requires the rearing and stocking of over 1.2 million native fish into the lower Colorado River. The purchase of an electro-fishing boat will provide another cost effective method for the collection of data on the status of extant fish populations as well as the survival of reared and repatriated fishes. The vessel is a state of the art electro-shocking system built by Smith Root of Seattle, Washington. The firm is currently the only supplier of such equipment. Electrofishing had been limited in recent years was due to the need for wild larvae. The Lake Mohave Native Fish Work Group decided that electrofishing would not be used during the March Razorback Roundup, because it may cause the spawning fish to expel their gametes and we needed these fish to spawn and produce young. Genetic analyses of the captured fish show that we have now captured adequate genetic representation of the old stock. We now feel that the quantity of young fish in the lake are being miscalculated or underestimated because the young fish are net shy and have good eyesight. We have decided to again use electrofishing as a monitoring tool. We reinstated electrofishing in Lake Havasu last spring, in Lake Mohave this last fall and again in April. Also, this newly purchased boat is a primary collection tool for the razorback sucker survival study being

conducted in the lower Colorado River. Next year we expect to conduct electrofishing surveys along the river below Davis Dam and in Topock Gorge.