

Work Task C9: Razorback Sucker Pen Rearing Tests

Partners:	Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery
Contact:	Tom Burke, LC-8300
Purpose:	Assess utility of pen-rearing of razorback suckers to increase rearing capability at the hatchery and to acclimate fish to Colorado River before release.
Conservation Measures:	RASU3 and RASU4
Long-term Goal(s):	Continuously improve both quantity and quality of the fish reared and released.
FY2006 Estimate:	\$48,000 to purchase and install system and design initial studies.
FY2007 Estimate:	\$35,000. Conduct studies; maintain facility.
FY2008 Estimate:	\$35,000. Same as previous year.
Project Description:	This program will evaluate the usefulness of pen culture for juvenile and sub-adult razorback suckers. Studies to date indicate that both size at time of release and conditioning prior to release are important factors for post stocking survival. This program will allow us to examine effects of reduced density in the hatchery raceways and could potentially improve both the size and condition of razorback suckers. Similar investigations will be conducted for bonytail in subsequent years.