

Work Task B8: Fish Tagging Equipment

FY09 Estimates	FY09 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09	FY10 Approved Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate
\$75,000	\$73,421.00	\$381,354.83	\$75,000	\$85,000	\$90,000	\$100,000

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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): This work was previously listed in FY04 work tasks as PIT Tag (A2). 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 (FY55).

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 the newest PIT-tag technology, 134.2-kHz frequency 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 19,433 RASU and 5,136 BONY were PIT-tagged and/or wire-tagged and released into the LCR during 2008.

FY09 Accomplishments: PIT tags, tagging equipment, and tag readers were purchased as needed to mark fish for monitoring and research. A total of 24,299 RASU and 6,579 BONY were PIT-tagged and/or wire-tagged and released into the LCR during 2009.

FY 10 Activities: PIT tags, tagging equipment, and tag readers will be purchased as needed to mark fish for monitoring and research.

Proposed FY 11 Activities: PIT tags, tagging equipment, and tag readers will be purchased as needed to mark fish for monitoring and research. A slight increase in funding is requested in anticipation of replacing aging tag-reading devices.

Pertinent Reports: N/A