

## Work Task C39: Post-Stocking Distribution and Survival of Bonytail in Reach 3

FY09 Estimates	FY09 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09	FY10 Approved Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000

**Contact:** Jeff Lantow, (702) 293-8557, [jlantow@usbr.gov](mailto:jlantow@usbr.gov)

**Start Date:** FY10

**Expected Duration:** FY15

**Long-term Goal:** Assess the effectiveness of the fish augmentation program.

**Conservation Measures:** BONY3, BONY5

**Location:** Reach 3 to include main stem and backwater habitats.

**Purpose:** To determine the distribution and post-stocking survival of BONY within Reach 3.

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future):** This work is related to work tasks B2, B3, and B4, all of which provide BONY for augmentation stocking. Study results will add to the database used to complete D8.

**Project Description:** Initially, this study will follow stocked fish to determine their fate after being released into Reach 3 of the Colorado River. Techniques for monitoring will include marking, tagging, netting, electro-fishing, and visual observations. Results of this initial work will be used to design and test ways to improve post-stocking survival. A final report will make recommendations for future BONY augmentation stockings.

**Previous Activities:** N/A

**FY09 Accomplishments:** N/A

**FY10 Activities:** Several groups of BONY will be sonic tagged and stocked into Reach 3 under the fish augmentation program. Released fish will be monitored weekly and all movements will be recorded and any presumed mortalities will be noted. Distribution will also be assessed using remote PIT scanners, which will be placed within habitats being used by sonic-tagged fish.

Initial monitoring is aimed at learning general distribution and habit use. Findings will be used to assess techniques and to finalize the study design for FY11-12 research (a control group of BONY will be tagged and held to assess tagging effects).

**Proposed FY11 Activities:** Intensive monitoring of BONY tagged and released in FY09 will be carried out. Locations where fish congregate will be aggressively monitored using underwater cameras, traps, nets, and SCUBA divers. Additional release of tagged fish will also occur. Should tracking and data collection warrant, techniques will be modified to maximize data collection effectiveness.

The substantial increase in funding for FY11 is due in part to FY10 work having been a preliminary action. The principal research will be conducted in FY11 and FY12.

**Pertinent Reports:** Study plans are available upon request and annual reports will be posted to the MSCP Web site upon completion.