

Work Task C41: Role of Artificial Habitat in Survival of RASU and BONY

| FY09 Estimates | FY09 Actual | Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09 | FY10 Approved Estimate | FY11 Proposed Estimate | FY12 Proposed Estimate | FY13 Proposed Estimate |
|----------------|-------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$0 |

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Start Date: FY10

Expected Duration: FY12

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

Conservation Measures: BONY3, BONY5, RASU3, RASU5, RASU6

Location: Reaches 2 and 3

Purpose: To assess use and role of artificial reefs and structures by native fishes released by the LCR MSCP.

Connections to Other Work Tasks (past and future): This work is related to all work tasks in Section B that provide RASU and BONY for augmentation stocking. Study results will add to the database used to complete D8.

Project Description: Approximately 800 acres of artificial fish habitat have been constructed and deployed in Lake Havasu over the past 15 years. Similar structures have recently been placed into coves in Lake Mohave. RASU have been periodically observed by SCUBA divers in and around these structures, along with numerous species of exotic fishes. This study will attempt to determine whether these structures provide a benefit or hazard to native fishes being released through the LCR MSCP area. The information may be used to determine future stocking locations. For example, if structures provide a benefit and are used as cover by native fishes, fish could be released in the vicinity of these structures.

Previous Activities: N/A

FY09 Accomplishments: N/A

FY10 Activities: Existing artificial reefs on Lake Havasu and Lake Mohave are being selected as study sites. PIT-tag antennae are under construction and will be deployed on and around structures during July and August. Marked fish will be released during fall

2010 in the vicinity of these structures and observed. Use of artificial structures by the fish will be recorded. Data will be analyzed and results developed into annual reports.

Proposed FY11 Activities: Monitoring use of artificial reefs on Lake Havasu and Lake Mohave by stocked RASU and BONY will continue. Data will be analyzed and developed into annual reports.

Pertinent Reports: N/A