

Work Task C53: Sonic Telemetry of Juvenile Flannelmouth Suckers in Reach 3

FY10 Estimates	FY10 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY10	FY11 Approved Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000

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Start Date: FY12

Expected Duration: FY15

Long-term Goal: Support flannelmouth sucker (FLSU) conservation.

Conservation Measures: FLSU1 and FLSU3.

Location: Reach 3, Arizona/Nevada/California.

Purpose: Determine habitat use and preference for juvenile FLSU in Reach 3. Provide resource managers with recommendations to enhance juvenile flannelmouth sucker habitats as a requirement for MSCP habitat creation goals.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Work conducted under this task is related to C15 and C45.

Project Description: Flannelmouth sucker were reintroduced into the Colorado River below Davis Dam by AGFD in 1976 by transfer of fish captured at the confluence of the Colorado and Paria rivers at Lee's Ferry, Arizona. This stock has persisted for three decades and now represents the only known population of this native species in the Colorado River downstream of Davis Dam.

The LCR MSCP completed five years of research on this population. The study contacted all life stages of flannelmouth sucker and telemetry of adults gave us great insight as to movements and habitat use of adult flannelmouth suckers. However, only 9 juvenile flannelmouth suckers greater than 100 mm and less than 350 mm total length were contacted during this study. Previous studies by U.S. Geological Survey in the 20 river miles above Lake Havasu had similar difficulty contacting juveniles, but found that while flannelmouth sucker contacts were rare, the majority (85%) of flannelmouth captured consisted of these smaller size classes. This study will define the habitats used by these younger fish and provide managers a complete life history of FLSU within Reach 3.

Previous Activities: This study will build upon the previous work accomplished through C15.

FY10 Accomplishments: New start in FY12.

FY11 Activities: New start in FY12. Tagging studies and larval collections were accomplished under D8 in preparation for this study.

Proposed FY12 Activities: The first year of this study will consist of the tagging of hatchery reared suckers which will take place in late winter when predators are less active. We propose to use 4 different model tags with a battery life of 7 days to 9 months. Twenty hatchery reared suckers of varying sizes will be selected and tagged with appropriate sized transmitters. Additional tags will be available for any wild captured flannelmouth suckers encountered while in the field. Tagged fish will be released near Laughlin and tracking will commence immediately following their release.

Pertinent Reports: The study plan is available upon request.