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

FY11 Estimate	FY11 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY11	FY12 Approved Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate
$0	$0	$0	$120,000	$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 LCR 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 work task C15.

FY11 Accomplishments: Juvenile RASU and FLSU tagging studies were accomplished under D8 in preparation for this project. Larval FLSU were captured near Laughlin, Nevada, and are currently being reared as a potential source of juvenile fish.

FY12 Activities: The first year of this study will consist of the tagging of hatchery reared suckers which will take place in late February when predators are less active. Up to 20 hatchery reared suckers of varying sizes will be selected and tagged with appropriate sized transmitters. We expect to use four different model tags with a battery life ranging from seven days to nine months. 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. Habitat data will be collected throughout the tracking process to determine habitat preferences.

Proposed FY13 Activities: Activities will be similar to those from FY12; specifics may vary depending on FY12 results.

Pertinent Reports: A study plan was developed in FY11 and is available upon request.