

Conservation Measures Razorback Sucker

Adaptive Management Work Group

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Dennis Kubly, Bureau of Reclamation

Conservation Measures

Razorback Sucker

- The 2007 biological opinion on interim guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead operations provides a not likely to adversely affect determination for razorback sucker or its critical habitat based on:
- The species is extremely rare in the action area, and ongoing monitoring should detect any changes in occurrence;
- Reclamation's conservation measures for humpback chub will help to minimize adverse effects, and;
- Reclamation will, as a conservation measure, undertake an effort to examine the potential of habitat in the lower Grand Canyon for the species, and institute an augmentation program in collaboration with FWS, if appropriate.

Conservation Measure

Razorback Sucker

- Lake Mead currently has at least three groups of naturally spawning and recruiting razorback suckers-- Las Vegas Bay, Echo Bay, and Muddy River/Virgin River inflow area.
- In 2000 and 2001 limited sampling for spawning activity was conducted at the Colorado River inflow area and razorback larvae were detected, although no adult fish were captured.
- In 2002 sonic-tagged adult fish were released in the Colorado River inflow area in an attempt to use those fish to lead researchers to spawning locations. This technique has been used successfully in other areas of the lake. However, due to tag malfunctions these fish were lost and no spawning areas were identified. This was the last year of sampling in the inflow area.

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- Fish biologists interested in razorback sucker in Lake Mead met in Boulder City, NV on March 31 regarding the potential use of the Colorado River inflow area by razorback suckers.
- There was agreement that the Lake Mead population of RBS has the potential to be one of the two recoverable populations within the Lower Basin as part of the Recovery Goals that are currently being revised. Region 2 FWS will take the lead in identifying this potential to Region 6 FWS.
- The group agreed that it made good sense to join their efforts and conduct studies that will benefit both the LCRMSCP and the GCDAMP.
- The next meeting of the group will be held later this spring or in early summer to further develop study plans.