

GCMRC UPDATES

TWG – April 2012

GCMRC is currently collaborating with Dr. Steven Martell of the University of British Columbia to provide an updated assessment of the humpback chub population in Grand Canyon. The update will include data collected from 2009 through 2011 and be in the form of a preliminary estimate generated using the Age-Structured Mark-Recapture (ASMR) model of Coggins and others. As results from the various humpback chub monitoring programs conducted by GCMRC and its cooperators have suggested, model trends indicate the Grand Canyon humpback chub adult population remains strong. In addition to the updated ASMR estimate, Dr. Martell is working to develop a more flexible length-based model that will minimize potential bias associated with age-assignment errors that exists in the current model. Once complete, the results of these efforts will be peer reviewed and published as a USGS Open File Report and possibly in the peer-reviewed literature.

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Topics proposed by to be included in the June, 2012 meeting of the GCDAMP Technical work group include a final report of the genetics study of the Kanab ambersnail conducted by Dr. Melanie Culver of the University of Arizona and co-authors. Dr. Culver will attend the meeting to present the study findings and answer questions. The peer review of this work is complete and the final USGS Open File Report should be finalized in time to distribute at time of the presentation. In addition, GCMRC will provide a follow up to the 2009 Fish Protocol Evaluation Panel report. We will prepare a response to the recommendations of the panel and discuss how they have been implemented to date.