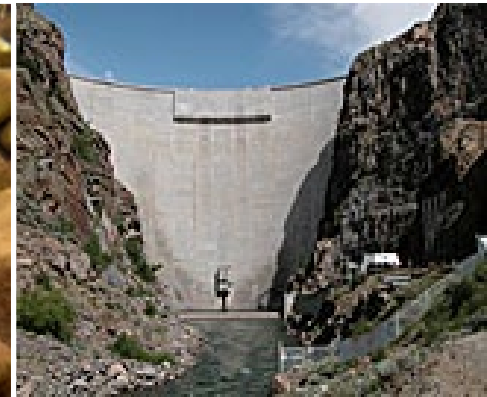


National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Colorado River Program



NPS Rapid Response Compliance

High risk Invasive Fish Concerns
at Glen Canyon Dam in 2022



Rapid Response: Shared Management Concern

- Defining roles and responsibilities
 - Shared management responsibilities between federal agencies and AGFD
 - Increasing Coordination:
 - Started weekly meetings among federal agencies
 - Beginning joint meetings with AGFD
 - Communication, Coordination and Consultation with Tribes

Efficiency of Responses to Invasion

- Prevention and proactive action preferable to waiting to respond
 - Maintain reservoir higher (DROA/annual volume changes)
 - Reduce summer temperatures below ideal breeding levels
 - Investigate or pursue reducing fish pass-through (Reclamation study)
- For responses to new invasions, studies elsewhere have documented:
 - Responding rapidly, especially prior to breeding is much more efficient and involve much lower numbers for lethal control than waiting.
- On-going control over time
 - Likely requires multiple methods to be applied to be the most effective (in other locations that has meant on-going mechanical removals, barriers, flow-based approaches)

NPS Compliance for Rapid Response

- NPS Federal Compliance: NEPA, ESA and NHPA 106
 - 2013 NPS Comprehensive Fish Management Plan (CFMP) EA/FONSI
 - 2019 NPS Expanded Non-Native Plan EA/FONSI
 - Actions available include mechanical, physical, biological and chemical
 - Invasive species were ranked, with top High-Risk species: Smallmouth bass, Walleye, Green Sunfish and Striped bass
 - Specific actions are tied to risk levels
- Depending on the actions, additional:
 - coordination may be needed
 - plans/permits may be sought through the state
 - consultation with tribes or USFWS may be needed

Status of Non-native Fish Establishment

- High risk fish have not yet been captured in large enough numbers to start a rapid response
- Concerned this could occur in next few months
- Reports of gizzard shad passing through in mid March as we reached 3525'; may indicate high risk fish also passing
- Summer release temperatures may be suitable for SMB and GSF
- Anticipating need for rapid response actions this summer

Tools that might apply to rapid response

■ CFMP:

- Incidental removal during monitoring
- Emergency rapid response (via electrofishing, nets, barriers) in GRCA/GLCA

■ Expanded Non-Native:

- Larger/ongoing Mechanical removal – electrofishing/nets/barriers in GRCA or in GLCA sloughs – tier 1
- Larger/ongoing mechanical removal in GLCA (outside sloughs) – tier 2
 - Consultation required, but would happen after rapid response period
- Chemical treatment for rapid response – tier 3
 - Consultation required, but action may need to start within 30-45 days

■ Status caveats: we have not reached a trigger for rapid response, we are not yet planning specific actions, we are discussing what is available in compliance should we need to use it at this time.

Tribal Communication, Collaboration & Consultation

- NPS acknowledges that we have had many consultations and correspondences with tribes, particularly Pueblo of Zuni, that document that some fish control actions will be viewed as an adverse effect to the documented Traditional Cultural Property (fish are considered a component of the TCP)
- Following coordination with AGFD, NPS plans to send a letter to tribes to offer formal consultation for those actions that may require consultation that may be considered for rapid responses.
- NPS is committed to continuing existing mitigations and continuing dialog to find new mitigations

Logistics Concerns

- Additional coordination and role definition in progress
- Currently NPS does not have sufficient equipment or personnel alone to conduct these operations for larger/on-going responses
- Larger mechanical removal response requires multiple boats with electrofishing rigs and staffing
- Chemical treatments involve consultation with tribes, seeking permits, drafting plans, working with licensed applicators and the right gear and equipment
- If we want a contract rapid response, we need additional funding
- NPS investigating funding opportunities within NPS and partners – we hoped for new appropriations this year but didn't receive them

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