



SBAHG Update & Nonnative Fish Strategic Plan: *Review and Discussion*

Laura Dye & Emily Higuera, SBAHG Co-Chairs
GCDAMP Technical Work Group Meeting
January 26, 2023

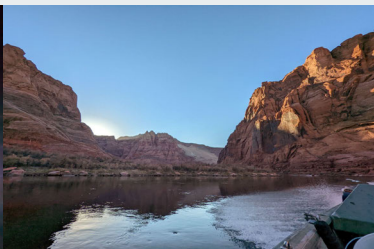
Acknowledgements

Strategic Plan writing group: Shana Rapoport, Craig Ellsworth, and Mel Fegler

Charles Yackulic, Drew Eppehimer, & Kirk Young

Smallmouth bass Ad Hoc Group & Technical Work Group

THANK YOU!



Directives from the Secretary's Designee



May 18, 2022, directs Reclamation and GCMRC to work with the TWG regarding the following: Develop a draft strategic plan to prevent, detect, and respond to cool- and warmwater invasive fish establishment below Glen Canyon Dam. The plan should include proposed monitoring, specific activities to be considered for prevention and response, along with their relative effectiveness, detection thresholds (“triggers”) for action, and conditions for discontinuing response activities (e.g. due to success, futility, resource limitations, etc.).

August 12, 2022 ; The first of the non-native fish actions is simply to ask the TWG, GCMRC, and Reclamation: to complete the draft non-native fish strategic plan and have it ready for distribution as soon as possible. This includes incorporating the next steps and prioritizing activities, equipment, and budgets for short-, mid- and long-term actions as discussed during the first day of AMWG deliberations. In turn, these will be combined into future project management plans within the GCDAMP program.

Roles as Co-Chairs

- Facilitate stakeholder discussions
- Provide updates to TWG chair and Reclamation
- Synthesize stakeholder input to reach consensus in the Strategic Plan
- Create neutral space for preferences to be shared



SBAHG Goals

- Redirection per the August 2022 Directive: *Main goal to produce a draft Strategic Plan as soon as possible*
- Continue updates related to smallmouth bass detections, operational alternatives EA, and fish escapement device(s)
- Facilitate stakeholder conversation and involvement where possible



Since October 2022 TWG...

- Four SBAHG meetings
- Fish Exclusion Device SME developed at BOR
- SMB EA Operational Alternatives
 - Informational session
 - Comment period
- Six-week SMB removal effort in Lees Ferry
- Three rounds of Strategic Plan review



Strategic Plan Outline

- Executive Summary and Introduction
- Guiding Principles
- Strategic Approach
- Invasive Fish of Concern
- Monitoring for Invasive Fish
 - Elaborated on in Attachment E
- Prevention and Response Actions
 - Elaboration of rapid response in Attachment A, and other actions in Attachment F
- Monitoring the Effectiveness of Actions
 - Ties into Attachment A & E
- Concluding Statement and Implementation Recommendations

Strategic Plan Attachments



Attachment A: Short-Term Rapid Response

Attachment B: GCMRC Science Plan - SMB

Attachment C: Existing Actions & Monitoring

Attachment D: Hot Spot Table

Attachment E: Proposed Additional Monitoring

Attachment F: Supplemental Actions

Attachment G: Recommendation Addendum

Attachment H: TWG Comments Received

Recommendation Addendum

Purpose: Provides implementation recommendations from TWG to the AMWG

- *Who* could 'own' the Plan
- *How* the Plan could be actionable
- *What* the SBAHG's role could be moving forward



Key Takeaways



GCDAMP stakeholders emphasize the following key takeaways:

- (1) Long-term prevention will require limiting fish entrainment into GCD.
- (2) Mid-term operational flow options to prevent and/or reduce reproductive success and limit establishment of fish .
- (3) Short-term rapid response actions may be needed to address newly located and detected invasive fishes.

Summary: comments and feedback



- The Plan does not capture diverse cultural perspectives
 - The Plan is a technical document, guided by LTEMP and DOI documents
- How does the Plan work with existing management plans/compliance?
 - The Plan does not supersede existing planning and compliance
- What about other actions? (i.e., TCDs, reservoir elevations, CO pikeminnow reintroduction, etc.)
 - Included in Attachment F, Supplemental Actions

Summary: comments and feedback



- Inclusion of trade-off assessments and mitigation measures
 - More discussion and examples incorporated
- Rapid response: when does it become “maintenance” actions?
 - Language added to Plan and Attachment A
- More discussion of triggers and offramps
 - USFWS and GCMRC *Assessment framework* in Attachment A

Review minor edits since Wednesday, 1/18/2023



Strategic Plan (main doc)

Pg. 2, 3rd paragraph:

"This Plan is not intended to curtail or restrict management agency actions already available under existing planning and compliance ~~for rapid response.~~"

- Duplicated in Attachment A, added to Recommendation Addendum as #2

Pg. 7, 3rd paragraph:

"The flow options being considered under Reclamation's current (2022 and 2023) Environmental Assessment for Glen Canyon Dam Operational Flexibilities in Response to Warmwater Invasive Fish are considered a temporary, mid-term action to respond to smallmouth bass ~~until and unless a fish exclusion device (long term action) can be installed and determined to be effective.~~"

Review minor edits since Wednesday, 1/18/2023



Attachment A

Pg. 1, 1st paragraph

Add: other long-term “non-flow” management strategies

Delete “for rapid response”

Pg. 3, Short-term RR options

Revised #5 language

Review proposed edit, Attachment A pg 3



5) While the actions provided in this document are described as short-term, the techniques used in these actions could be adapted and utilized in mid- to long-term efforts to suppress an established population. Should a change from rapid response actions to suppressive high risk non-native mitigation be needed, additional analysis and assessment of cost, impacts to resources, and other policy considerations should be conducted. Additionally, a shift to suppression efforts would no longer be considered short-term, and further management of an established species should be informed by the stage of the invasion curve, and other external factors, such as the ability to implement the preventative mid- and long-term actions described in the Plan. This does not prohibit an agency from conducting reoccurring rapid response actions within their existing plans and compliance, but acknowledges that the Plan currently does not address long-term management of an established population.

Thank You!

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Proposed Motion



The TWG accepts the Nonnative Fish Strategic Plan as developed through the Smallmouth Bass Ad Hoc Group and recommends that it is provided to the Adaptive Management Work Group to consider it as a means for addressing the Secretary's Designee's request from the August 2022 AMWG meeting.

or

The TWG provides the draft Nonnative Fish Strategic Plan, as developed through the Smallmouth Bass Ad Hoc Group, to the Adaptive Management Work Group for their consideration in response to the Secretary's Designee's request from the August 2022 AMWG meeting.