**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT**

**Razorback Sucker Research & Monitoring Work - Lower Grand Canyon & Colorado River**

**Contract # GS-10F-0331S**

**Order # R13PD40083**

**Requisition # 0040273689**

**Reporting Dates:**

**July 1, 2017 through July 31, 2017**

**Contracting Agency:**

**Bureau of Reclamation, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84138**

**Contracting Officer:**

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Monthly telemetry was conducted at the Colorado River Inflow area (CRI) on June 12, 2017. No sonic fish were contacted manually at the CRI during the July tracking trip. Although no fish were contacted, it is likely that fish were present in the shallow delta area being created by the Colorado River inflow. This delta is becoming large with shallow sandbars extending south to Sandy point. Navigation into the delta was very limited in July, which decreased the trackable area for sonic fish.

A larval and small-bodied fish sampling trip was conducted by BIO-WEST and ASIR from July 10–17, 2017 in the Grand Canyon. Fifty-six Generalized Random Tessellation Stratified (GRTS) sampling sites were sampled for larval and small-bodied fish. Larval catostomids and cyprinids were collected throughout the study area. Crew members who performed previous 2017 larval survey trips remarked that densities of larvae appeared lower than the two previous sampling trips (May and June). Larval fish were persevered in 10% formalin. Numerous juvenile fish were also captured, measured, and released within the GRTS sites including native common suckers and Humpback Chub, *Gila cypha*. Larval fish sampled were deposited at the Museum of Southwestern Biology at the University of New Mexico. The collections will be cleaned of all debris, labeled, stored in 5% buffered formalin in museum quality glass jars and will await identification. Identification of July collections will begin once the samples are processed. Identification of 2017 March–June samples are underway.

Additionally, Flannelmouth Suckers *Catostomus latipinnis*, Bluehead Suckers *C. discobolus*, and Speckled Dace *Rhinichthys osculus* were captured during small-bodied sampling along with Fathead Minnows *Pimephales promelas*, Red Shiners *Cyprinella lutrensis*, Western Mosquitofish *Gambusia affinis,* Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss,* and Plains Killifish *Fundulus zebrinus*. No young Razorback Suckers were captured via small bodied sampling, but 132 Humpback Chub (21–98 mm TL) were captured between RM 167.7 and 279.0. Additionally, one sonic tagged Razorback Sucker was contact via SUR near Spencer Creek (RM 246). This fish was released at Diamond Creek in 2016.

BIO-WEST and ASIR are continuing to proactively work with multiple agencies and interested parties regarding LGC trip coordination for 2017, and are in the process of coordinating and preparing for an August sampling trip.