## Population dynamics of razorback sucker in

 two lower Colorado River reservoirsBRIAN KESNER, CHASE EHLO, CAROL PACEY, JAMIE WISENALL, BRITTANY WOODWARD, AND PAUL MARSH

MARSH \& ASSOCIATES, LLC


Colorado River Aquatic Biologist Meeting
January 7 - 8, 2015
Laughlin, NV

# Funding for this project has been provided by the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. 



## Razorback Sucker 134 kHz PIT Tagged Stockings

 O- 134 kHz tagged at release in database
o Lake Havasu - 57,037
r October 24, 2006 to February 27, 2014
- Lake Mohave - 72,071
. May 3, 2006 to January 27, 2014
- 134 kHz tagged at release contacts
- Lake Havasu - 4,600 (8.1\% of releases)
- Lake Mohave -4,405 (6.1\% of releases)




## Lake Mohave PIT Scanning

\left.|  | Scan Year |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Release Year | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |  |
| 2006 | 8 | 5 | 36 | 29 | 33 |  |
| 2007 | 28 | 17 | 60 | 62 | 56 |  |
| 2008 | 28 | 32 | 72 | 73 | 63 |  |
| 2009 | 227 | 609 | 1035 | 1020 | 871 |  |
| 2010 | 16 | 253 | 610 | 628 | 538 |  |
| 2011 | - | 0 | 719 | 584 | 513 |  |
| 2012 | - | - | 22 | 171 | 199 |  |
| 2013 | - | - | - | 5 | 121 |  |
| 2014 | - | - | - | - | 10 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 307 | 916 | 2554 | 2572 | 2404 |  |  |$\right]$ 28,000 released



## Lake Mohave Zones



## Lake Mohave PIT Scanning - River

| Released |  | Contacted |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year | Released | Mean TL $(\mathrm{mm})$ | Contacted | Mean TL $(\mathrm{mm})$ | Proportion Contacted |
| 2007 | 66 | 445 | 2 | 442 | 0.030 |
| 2008 | 95 | 478 | 29 | 497 | 0.305 |
| 2009 | 6290 | 402 | 971 | 437 | 0.154 |
| 2010 | 5576 | 370 | 552 | 444 | 0.099 |
| 2011 | 2470 | 396 | 666 | 431 | 0.270 |
| 2012 | 3926 | 352 | 42 | 446 | 0.011 |
| 2013 | 4523 | 330 | 3 | 384 | 0.001 |
| 2014 | 2976 | 332 | 0 |  | 0.000 |

## Lake Mohave Zones



## Lake Mohave PIT Scanning - Basin

| Released |  |  | Contacted |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year | Released | Mean TL (mm) | Contacted | Mean TL (mm) | Proportion Contacted |
| 2006 | 1050 | 386 | 43 | 456 | 0.041 |
| 2007 | 612 | 443 | 74 | 475 | 0.121 |
| 2008 | 443 | 449 | 48 | 492 | 0.108 |
| 2009 | 2682 | 381 | 370 | 470 | 0.138 |
| 2010 | 3262 | 366 | 293 | 459 | 0.090 |
| 2011 | 2399 | 361 | 198 | 448 | 0.083 |
| 2012 | 2564 | 384 | 214 | 448 | 0.083 |
| 2013 | 3804 | 351 | 63 | 458 | 0.017 |
| 2014 | 4219 | 344 | 10 | 459 | 0.002 |

- 51 of 63 fish contacted from 2013 release were from 278 fish released out of backwaters
- 58 additional fish were contacted from 2013 stocking released in Katherine or Liberty zones


## Lake Havasu PIT Scanning

| Released |  |  | Contacted |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year | Released | Mean TL $(\mathrm{mm})$ | Contacted | Mean TL $(\mathrm{mm})$ | Proportion Contacted |
| 2006 | 4046 | 345 | 173 | 365 | 0.040 |
| 2007 | 6718 | 354 | 205 | 379 | 0.030 |
| 2008 | 3138 | 326 | 222 | 328 | 0.070 |
| 2009 | 5858 | 332 | 564 | 342 | 0.100 |
| 2010 | 5465 | 361 | 173 | 372 | 0.030 |
| 2011 | 10840 | 362 | 1083 | 381 | 0.100 |
| 2012 | 8220 | 359 | 601 | 378 | 0.070 |
| 2013 | 6243 | 396 | 538 | 418 | 0.090 |
| 2014 | 5645 | 398 | 177 | 419 | 0.030 |

## PIT Scanned Release Size Distribution Lake Havasu




## Stocking Population Dynamics

How does this difference impact population dynamics?

- Simple population model
o Stock 10,000 fish a year at three sizes
) 300 mm
) 350 mm
) 450 mm
- First year survival based on MARK survival estimates for each size class in each reservoir
- Second year and older fish survive at 75\% annually


## Stocking Choices - Mohave



## Stocking Choices - Havasu



## Havasu Still an Unknown O

- Wary of results due to differences in contact rates
- PIT scanning contacting a quarter to a third of population
r In 2012, a total of 971 were scanned out of an estimated 4524
r In 2013, a total of 1649 out of an estimated 4196
- Few fish larger than 450 mm have been released
- Nonrandom assortment?


## Lake Mohave Adult Survival




## Yuma Cove PIT Scanning 2013



## Lake Mohave Adult Transition

- Post release
- 6.0\% released in river transition to basin
- 6.6\% released in basin transition to river
- Adult monthly transition
- $0.6 \%$ transition from river to basin
- $2.3 \%$ transition from basin to river



## Thanks to our partners for their support



- USFWS

- Cross Country Consulting, LLC
- Biomark?

