**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT**

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

**Contract # GS-10F-0331S**

**Order # R13PD40083**

**Requisition # 0040273689**

**Reporting Dates:**

**August 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017**

**Contracting Agency:**

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

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Monthly telemetry was conducted at the Colorado River Inflow area (CRI) on August 17, 2017. One sonic fish was contacted manually near Sandy Point just downstream of the river delta and an additional six unique fish were detected via SUR since June 2017. Tracking was also conducted upstream of the river delta with no sonic-fish contacted. Additionally, small-bodied seining was conducted approximately 10–12 river miles upstream of the river delta. Of the 738 fish captured 92% were native fish consisting of Bluehead Sucker, Flannelmouth Sucker, and Speckled Dace. The majority (over 69%) were Flannelmouth Suckers.

A larval and small-bodied fish sampling trip was conducted by BIO-WEST and ASIR from August 16–21, 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 at a small number of sites throughout the study area. Crewmembers who performed previous 2017 larval survey trips remarked that densities of larvae appeared lower than all of the previous sampling trips. 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. Additionally, efforts are underway to identify larvae that were collected during previous 2017 surveys (March through July).

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 146 Humpback Chub (19–282 mm TL) were captured between RM 123.6 and 277.4. 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 potentially beyond. We are in the process of coordinating and preparing for a September sampling trip to conclude 2017 fieldwork. A draft report detailing the results from the CRI and Grand Canyon in 2017 is being compiled.