

Population Estimates and Water Quality Summary for Native Fish in Off-Channel Habitats (FY 2012)



Prepared by:
Robert Randall
AZFWCO

Outline

- ◉ Lower Colorado River Management Plan (LCRMP) Strategies
- ◉ FY 2012 Summary of Activities
 - High Levee Pond (HLP)
 - Emerald Canyon Golf Course (ECGC)
 - Office Cove (OC)
 - River's Edge Golf Course (REGC)
- ◉ Summary
- ◉ Recommendations

LCRMP Strategies

- Use of hatcheries to produce larger fish for reintroduction
- Use of natural or constructed habitats to develop self-sustaining populations and to produce larger fish for release into the main stem
- Use of exploited habitat made available by reservoir drawdown or drying to establish populations of large adults

High Levee Pond (HLP)

- Located in CNWR (Old Oxbow) RBS and BTC
- 82 RBS within HLP, October 10 – 18 2012
- Water Quality stable throughout 2012



Location	Month/Year	Stocking Facility	# of RBS Stocked	Average Length
HLP	May 2012	HNFF	144	336 mm

HLP Cont...

Location	Date Released	Release Site	# of RBS/BTC Released	Avg. Length (mm)	Range (mm)
HLP	April 3-6, 2012	Topock Marina	144/RBS	478	408-563
HLP	April 3-6, 2012	Bill Williams River Delta	44/BTC	404	342-526

Emerald Canyon Golf Course (ECGC)

- La Paz County, AZ
- Pond 1 ~ 60
- Pond 9 24
- Pond 11 39
- Water quality par for the course



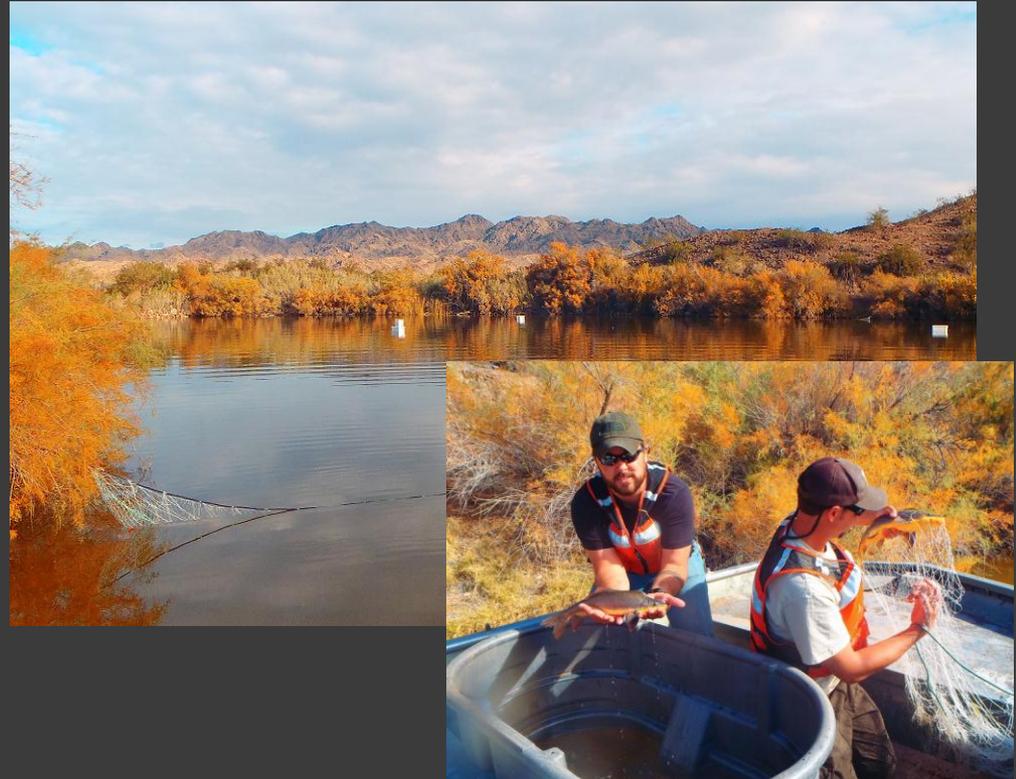
Location	Month/Year	Stocking Facility	# of RBS Stocked	Average Length
ECGC 1	May 2012	HNFF	17	335 mm
ECGC 9	May 2012	HNFF	11	335 mm
ECGC 11	May 2012	HNFF	8	335 mm

ECGC Cont...

Location	Date Released	Release Site	# of RBS Released	Avg. Length (mm)	Range (mm)
ECGC 1	April 3-6, 2012	Topock Marina	17	469	420-531
ECGC 9	April 3-6, 2012	Topock Marina	11	507	406-585
ECGC 11	April 3-6, 2012	Topock Marina	8	500	450-560

Office Cove

- Located on the BWRNWR
- 145 RBS
June 2 – July 10, 2012
- August DO Levels



Location	Month/ Year	Stocking Facility	# of RBS stocked	Average Length
OC	May 2012	HNFF	34	334 mm

OC Cont...

Location	Date Released	Release Site	# of RBS Released	Avg. Length (mm)	Range (mm)
OC	April 3-6, 2012	Topock Marina	34	437	400-489

River's Edge Golf Course

- Needles, CA
River mile 50 and 51
Two lined ponds RBS and BTC
- 70 RBS
May 3-June 8, 2012
- Fish Kill Averted

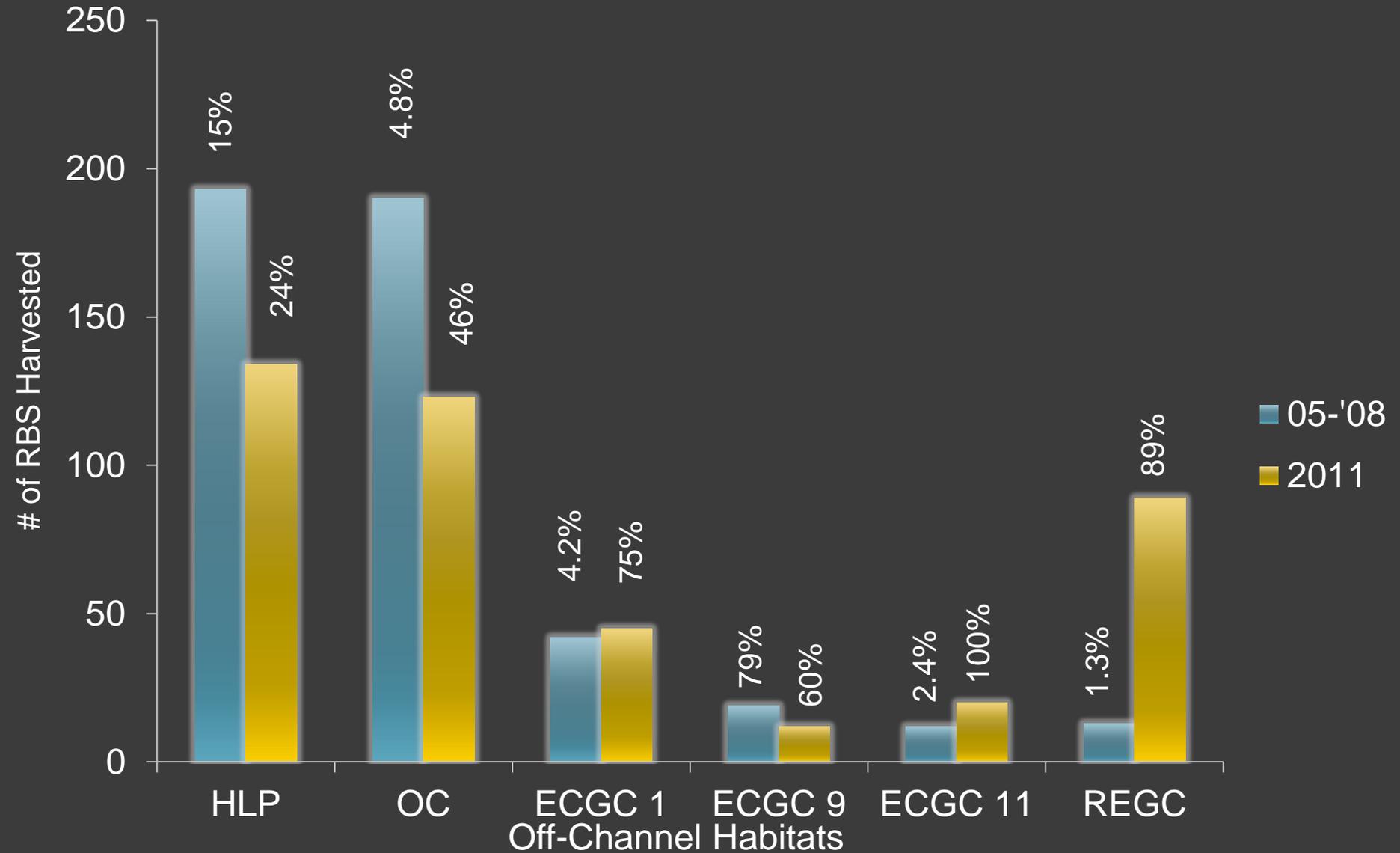


Location	Month/Year	Stocking Facility	# of RBS stocked	Average Length
Inlet Pond	May 2012	HNFF	35	335 mm

River's Edge Golf Course Cont...

Location	Date Released	Release Site	# of RBS Released	Avg. Length (mm)	Range (mm)
Inlet & Riverside	April 3-6, 2012	Topock Marina	35	478	451-525

Stocked Survivorship

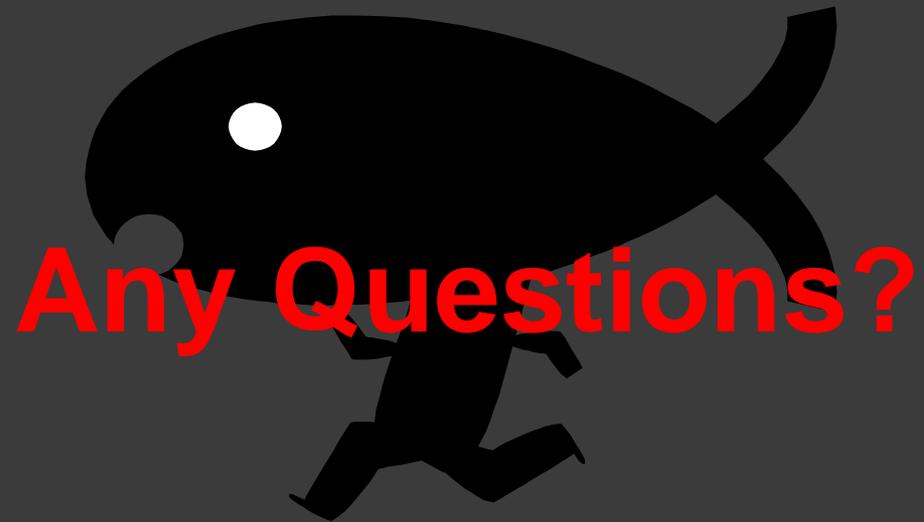


Summary

- Greater stocking regimes Lower return 1.3% to 15%
- Lower stocking regimes greater return 24% to 100%
- We will have to continue to alter the stocked population sizes in order to achieve maximum densities along with good survivorship
- Information gained can be used to modify management actions and rearing techniques to grow fish of larger size and increase overall survival of stocked fish through time

Recommendations

- ◉ Continue monitoring water quality monthly and bi-monthly during the warmer months
- ◉ Remove and stock larger fish annually (>400 mm) from each backwater
- ◉ Continue to evaluate survival of larger fish released out of the backwaters into the Colorado River
- ◉ The success of the backwater program should be measured by the number and size of the fish harvested and the overall survival both in the backwater as well as survival over time post-release



Any Questions?