# Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

*Balancing Resource Use and Conservation*

## LCR MSCP Fisheries Program Status

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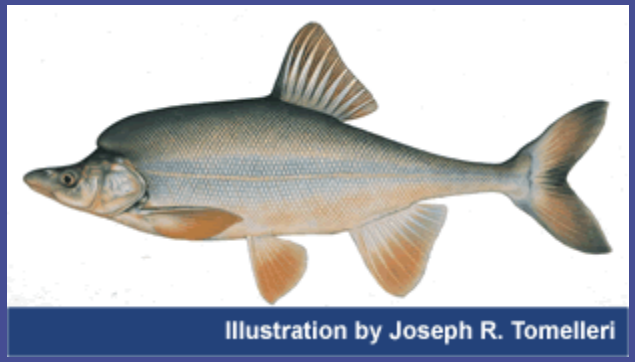
# LCR MSCP Fisheries

Conservation Measures for 4 of the “Big-River” fishes

3 Major Components:

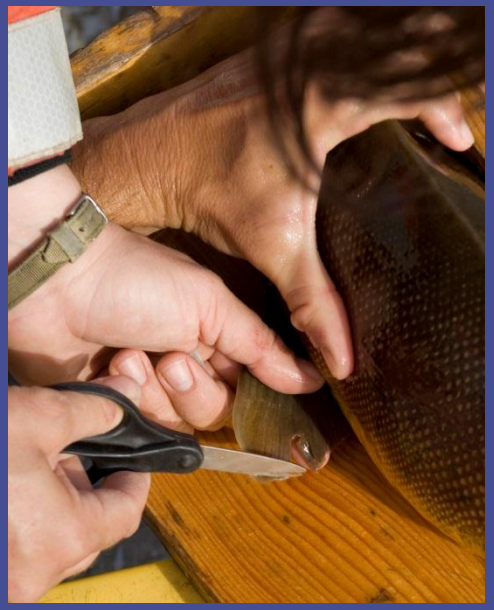
- Research and Monitoring
- Augmentation
- Habitat Creation



# LCR MSCP Fisheries

- Research
  - Habitat requirements
  - Life history
  - Techniques (stocking and sampling)

- and Monitoring in system-wide and created habitats
  - Populations
  - Genetics
  - Water quality/habitat parameters



# LCR MSCP Fisheries

Augmentation

- 660,000 Razorback Sucker and
- 620,000 Bonytail Chub to be stocked
- >300 mm

- Over 214,000 Razorback and 62,000 Bonytail currently stocked into Reaches 2 through 5

Maintaining current population
Maintaining genetic integrity

# Fisheries/Restoration

- Habitat Creation
  - Create or protect 360 acres backwater habitat
    - Refuges for native fish
    - Species research
    - Future augmentation

- Current Program Backwaters (conservation areas)
  - Big Bend = 15 acres
  - Imperial Ponds = 80 acres
    - Beal Lake = 225 acres (credited under previous BO)

- Future Backwaters
  - Mohave Valley ~ 50 acres

# Imperial Ponds Update

- Maintaining native fish in Pond 1
  - Population estimates
  - Scheduled surface water additions
  - Water quality monitoring
- No surface water additions to Ponds 2-6 (April 2011 through April 2013)
  - Water quality monitoring

# Imperial Ponds Update

Current Pond 1 population estimates (w/ lower and upper CI)

- Razorback = 137 (106,176)
- Bonytail = 55 (39, 80)

Future Imperial Ponds Management

- Imperial Ponds Fisheries Coordination Team
  - Data analysis and review
  - Techniques to mitigate water quality issues
  - Future research
  - Native fish stocking

- New well installation complete

Bonytail recovered from Pond 2

- 1 year without water management = 5 BONY
- 2 years without water management = 2 BONY
- Sizes ranged 322mm - 372mm.

# Questions?

LCR MSCP website:
http://www.lcrmscp.gov/

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