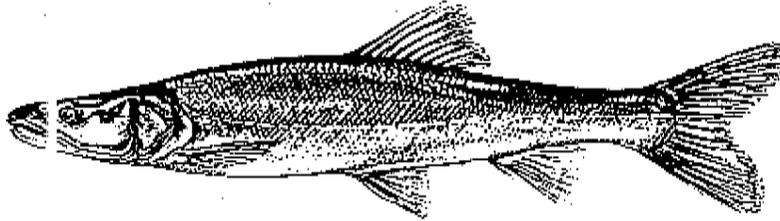


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2004 cpm Rpt.

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COLORADO PIKEMINNOW FINGERLING PRODUCTION
San Juan River
2004

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SOW COMPLETION REPORT
December 03, 2004

Objectives:

- 1) Continue data collection on induced spawning Colorado pikeminnow under controlled conditions.
- 2) Produce 300,000 fingerlings (50 mm TL) for stocking in the San Juan River during October, 2004.
- 3) Evaluate distribution methods of transporting 300,000 Colorado pikeminnow fingerlings from Dexter NFH and TC to the San Juan River.

Results:

Two attempts to spawn Colorado pikeminnow during May, 2004 resulted in fair to good egg production. On May 19, two Colorado pikeminnow females (1981 year-class) spawned approximately 24 hours after receiving one intraperitoneal injection of 2.0 mg carp pituitary per pound of body weight (4.4 mg/kg body weight). Females had a mean total length of 731 mm and a mean weight of 3.48 kg. Average number of eggs per female was 93,643. All swim-up fry were used for other commitments.

On May 26, a total of 29 Colorado pikeminnow females (1991 year-class) spawned 22-24 hours after receiving one intraperitoneal injection of 2.0 mg carp pituitary per pound of

body weight (4.4 mg/kg body weight). Females had a mean total length of 635 mm and a mean weight of 2.45 kg. Average number of eggs per female was 69,590.

Eggs were inventoried and placed in Heath incubators at a water temperature of 70 F (21 C). Eggs commenced hatching at 90 hours and were completely hatched by 140 hours. Newly hatched larvae were transferred to four fiberglass holding tanks (12.0' X 2.75' X 2.0') and held until swim-up occurred, approximately 120 hours after hatching. Four earthen ponds, ranging in size from 0.74 to 0.88 surface acres (0.30 to 0.36 ha) were stocked with 315,000 fry. Ponds received weekly fertilizer treatments (six treatments) to promote a plankton bloom. Fry were also given a daily supplement diet of artificial feed. Fish were not moved during grow out period.

The young-of-the-year CPM were cultured in the four ponds for 132-145 days. Survival in the four ponds ranged from 76.6% to 97.3%. Overall survival was 88.9% for a return of 280,000 fingerlings.

Distribution was conducted on two different trips. Hauling methods consisted of two (2) double compartment fiberglass tanks and one single compartment fiberglass tank. One double compartment tank had capacities of 325 and 375 gallons (1,230 and 1,420 liters) and the other 100 gallons (376 liters) per compartment. The single compartment tank had a capacity of 300 gallons (1,136 liters).

On October 21, personnel from Dexter and BioWest, transported and stocked 140,000 Colorado pikeminnow averaging 2.0 inches (50 mm) and weighing 313.5 pounds (142.2 kg) to several locations on the San Juan River. Of this number, a total of 20,000 fingerlings had been VIE marked. On October 28, personnel from Dexter transported and stocked the remaining 140,000 Colorado pikeminnow averaging 2.0 inches (50 mm) and weighing 320 pounds (145.2 kg) to several locations on the San Juan River. All stocking efforts were coordinated with Dale Ryden of the Grand Junction CRFP Office.

Dexter NFH and TC is currently maintaining a total of 399 broodstock: 39 (1974/1981 year-class) and 360 (1991 year-class). Dexter staff is requesting that additional Colorado pikeminnow broodstock, wild fingerlings, be collected in the near future and transferred to Dexter. This effort will insure that a genetically diverse broodstock and refugia is maintained over the time frames identified in the augmentation plan for Colorado pikeminnow in the San Juan River (USFWS, 2003). The captive broodstock at Dexter is essential to the SJRIP in order to accomplish the objectives identified in the augmentation plan and to assist with the recovery efforts in the entire Colorado River basin.