

**COLORADO PIKEMINNOW FINGERLING PRODUCTION  
SAN JUAN RIVER  
FY-2002**

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**SOW COMPLETION REPORT**

**Objectives**

- (1) Continue data collection on induced spawning Colorado pikeminnow under controlled conditions;
- (2) Produce 200,000 fingerlings (50 mm TL) for stocking in the San Juan River during October, 2002;
- (3) Evaluate distribution methods of transporting 200,000 Colorado pikeminnow fingerlings from Dexter NFH & TC to the San Juan River.

**Results**

A total of 12 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 length of 754 mm and a mean weight of 4.1 kg. Average number of eggs per female was 145,522.

Eggs were inventoried and placed in Heath incubators at a water temperature of 70 F (21 C). Eggs commenced hatching at 96 hours and were completely hatched by 144 hours. Newly hatched larvae were transferred to fiberglass holding tanks and held until swim-up occurred, about 120-144 hours after hatching.

Two earthen ponds ranging in size from 0.74 to 0.82 surface acres (0.30-0.33 ha) were stocked with 121,600 and 141,800 fry, respectively. Ponds received weekly fertilizer treatments (six treatments) to promote a plankton bloom. Fry were also given a daily supplemental diet of artificial feed.

Fish were cultured in these two ponds for about 133-134 days. The 0.74 surface acre (0.30 ha) pond stocked with 121,600 fry had a return of 97,280 fingerlings for an 80% survival, while the 0.82 surface acre (0.33 ha) pond stocked with 141,800 fry had a return of 113,138 fingerlings for an 79.8% survival.

Hauling methods consisted of a double compartment fiberglass tank and a single compartment fiberglass tank. The double compartment tank had capacities of 375 and 325 gallons (1,420 and 1,230 liters) and the single compartment tank a capacity of 300 gallons ( 1,136 liters).

On 10/24/02, personnel from Dexter NFH & TC transported and stocked 210,418 Colorado pikeminnow averaging 2.0 inches (50 mm) and weighing 443 pounds (200.9 kg) to several locations on the San Juan River. Stocking efforts were coordinated with Jason Davis of the New Mexico FRO.