

Museum of Southwestern Biology  
2015 San Juan River Specimen Curation and Data  
Synthesis and Integration



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2015 SAN JUAN RIVER SPECIMEN CURATION  
AND  
DATA SYNTHESIS AND INTEGRATION  
FOR  
SAN JUAN RIVER RECOVERY  
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (SJRRIP)

DIVISION OF FISHES  
MUSEUM OF SOUTHWESTERN BIOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

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## INTRODUCTION SJRRIP SPECIMEN CURATION

Since 1987, the Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB), Division of Fishes at the University of New Mexico (UNM), Albuquerque has served as the primary repository for collections of fishes (eggs, larvae, and adults), field notes, and habitat photographs taken for the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program (SJRRIP). Genetic samples, derived from these research activities, are also archived in the MSB in -80C freezers and 95% ethanol.

San Juan River fish specimens, maintained at the MSB, represent a physical record of the presence/absence of those species in the drainage (Appendix I). Often referred to as “voucher collections,” these fish specimens are preserved so that they will remain in good condition, in perpetuity. Housing the San Juan River collections (and all other fish collections) in a new museum facility (completed in 2000) has further facilitated research by providing better access to specimens and ensuring long-term preservation of the collections for future investigations. (Note that collections listed in Appendix I without specimen and lot counts are not yet cataloged into the MSB database but in process.)

In our efforts to maintain the San Juan River collections and field data in optimal conditions, the MSB Division of Fishes follows a “best practices” guide for the conservation of museum collections (Cato, 2001) and data capture (Chapman, 2005). We adhere to recommendations for preservation of fish collections and data by following those of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (Fink, et al., 1979), the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, the American Fisheries Society, and the American Association of Museums. For the past 19 years, MSB staff has maintained professional contacts with various experts in the field of museum “best practices” for both larval and adult fish specimen preservation as well as loans of comparative material for positive identification of San Juan River Basin species. These experts include Darrel E. Snyder, Larval Fish Lab, Colorado State University; David L. Smith, Division of Fishes, Natural History Museum, Smithsonian Institution; Karsten E. Hartel, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard; Douglas W. Nelson, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan.

## METHODS USED FOR SJRRIP SPECIMEN CURATION

“Processing” San Juan River specimens of fishes and associated data refers to 1) following a formal accession protocol of documenting specimen conditions, filing permits, field notes, and other paperwork for SJRRIP collections received by the MSB; 2) cleaning the samples and transferring the collections through various concentrations of fluid preservatives for long-term storage; 3) separating the collections by species, measuring and counting the specimens; 4) verifying specimen identifications; 5) electronic capture of locality and habitat data and specimen data; 6) georeferencing the collection sites; 7) digital capture of original field notes for electronic archives; 8) cataloging and labeling specimen collections; and 9) filing the specimens and original field notes in the MSB permanent archives.

All incoming collections are removed from field containers (usually Whirl-Paks®) and “field formalin” (an approximated measurement of formaldehyde 1 part to river water 9 parts), cleaned by separating specimens from river debris, and transferring the collections to either 5% buffered formalin for larvae (Markle, 1984) or 10% buffered formalin for adult specimens for complete fixing of tissues. As these collections are sorted and identified to species, they are transferred through two concentrations of ethanol (35%, 50%) and into a final preservative of 70% ethanol. Currently, many

collections of fish larvae are fixed and maintained in 95% ethanol for otolith extraction and analysis. Some examples of the larval fishes may remain in 5% buffered formalin as a final preservative because morphological features are maintained better than in 70% ethanol, which causes some shrinkage. (D.E. Snyder, pers. comm.)

Each lot of fish specimens is counted and measured (smallest and the largest in the series). Prior to fully incorporating SJRRIP collections into the MSB cataloged collections, the specimens are examined and identified by qualified personnel (mostly SJRRIP researchers). SJRRIP personnel working in the MSB have trained with Darrel E. Snyder, Colorado State University (CSU) Larval Fish Lab Laboratory (LFL) who is a nationally recognized expert in the identification of native larval fishes of the Southwestern U.S. As necessary, specimens that cannot be identified by SJRRIP researchers are sent on loan to Mr. Snyder for species verification. He provides a detailed description of larval characters for all collections verified or identified. This report is filed in the MSB files and made available to SJRRIP researchers.

Once specimen and locality data are entered and the collections cataloged (each lot assigned a unique museum number), specimens are transferred to a final preservative (70% ethanol, 95% ethanol, and /or 5% buffered formalin) and labeled using a Datamax® DMX-I-4308 thermal transfer printer and polyspun plastic label paper. These labels are permanent (stable) in ethanol, formalin, and isopropanol (Bentley, 2004). The cataloged and labeled collections are then filed in the permanent archives, organized by family, genus, species, and drainage. Genetic collections and collections for otolith extractions consist of San Juan River fish larvae fixed and preserved in 95% ethanol or frozen in -80°C ultracold freezer. Fin clips from suspected hybrid catostomids (*Xyrauchen texanus* x *Catostomus* spp.) are preserved in 95% ethanol for later analysis. Genetic examples are assigned numbers so they can be cross referenced with formalin-fixed vouchers (if available). Specimens fixed and maintained in 95% ethanol for otolith extraction are cataloged and filed accordingly. Processing rates for incoming San Juan River specimens have been variable over the past 20 years, depending on several issues like the lapse of time between the actual field collection and when the collection is received by MSB staff; the amount of debris in the samples, which can hamper detection of fish larvae and eggs; and the amount of material collected via a particular collection method.

The second part of the MSB specimen processing protocol is data entry, data and file organization and management. There are three primary MS Access data tables (Appendix III): specimen data, locality/collection data, and released fishes data or a total of 134 possible fields in which to organize San Juan River data (Walsh and Meador, 1998). Data capture and data management (Chapman, 2005) for San Juan River specimens is accomplished by UNM student employees (undergraduate and graduate) and the MSB Collections Manager. San Juan River specimen data are cataloged and entered by the MSB staff in an electronic catalog (Appendix III. NTop.db). These data relate to the physical deposition of the specimens, their identification, size class, and abundance. San Juan River locality data are captured in 85 possible fields (Appendix III. NBottom.db).

Students are trained to enter locality data received in various field note formats; required to do a “QC” or quality-control check of data before submitting to the Collections Manager; and consult with the Collections Manager regarding ambiguous localities or errors in original locality data. Final checks of all locality data entries and verifications are the responsibility of the MSB Collections Manager (Chapman, 2005). Delays in entry of locality data occur only when field data are inaccurately or poorly recorded on original field/data sheets; when handwriting is illegible; when MSB staff must verify “in house” terminology; when field data are recorded in unknown (to us) codes or abbreviated terms; and when locality information is ambiguous. In these cases, MSB personnel must contact field

crews for clarification prior to data entry. For the past 8 years, San Juan River localities have been georeferenced, using GEOLocate© Version 3.0 software, a package developed specifically for natural history collection data. There are 38,905 locality records in the MSB database. Of these records, 19,540 records are San Juan River localities (1940-2014). All MSB specimen records are now completely edited, verified, georeferenced (NSF funding 2012-2014), and available on FishNet2, a portal for fish collections' data. These data can be searched and downloaded to three file types: .txt, .csv, and .kml. The site provides mapping capability to either plot records found in a search or to draw a search polygon. The records all have decimal latitude and longitude assigned to them so that they can be used in ArcView, a geographic information system (GIS) software for visualizing, managing, creating, and analyzing geographic data. <http://fishnet2.net/aboutFishNet.html>

In the next year, the MSB Division of Fishes database will transfer to Arctos, a comprehensive collection management information system, utilizing the Texas Advanced Computing Center servers for storage. <http://arctosdb.org/>

Data for released fishes (Appendix III. RNTop.db) are entered into a third, primary table labeled, "RNTOP." The field structure is similar to NTOP except there are no catalog numbers; data are mostly observational.

MSB Division of Fishes undergraduate student employees scan all San Juan River field notes received with specimens and "clean" digital images (Photoshop CS3) for the permanent electronic files. These images are saved in two formats: TIFF and PDF and archived in the Division server, Dell PowerEdge T110 II. PDF files of all original field notes and habitat pictures (JPEG files) are linked to individual specimen and locality records in the MSB database for viewing. That is, when researchers and staff open a locality or specimen record in the MSB database they can also view a PDF of the original field notes or JPG files of habitat and fish photographs, as well as associated spreadsheets with project information. As of 2015, student Curatorial Assistants have digitally captured over 25,000 pages (tifs) of San Juan River field notes and data sheets, received from American Southwestern Ichthyological Researchers, LLC, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Utah Department of Wildlife Resources, US Bureau of Reclamation, and (in past years) MSB field crews. (See Appendix IV for field note formats.)

The San Juan River database and all associated digital files of field notes and photographs are also backed up on a local Western Digital® ShareSpace 4TB network storage system, a Dell PowerEdge T110 II, and offsite private FTP site set up by the University of New Mexico Zimmerman Library Digital Data Management, Curation, and Archiving Department.

### MUSEUM FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR SJRRIP SPECIMEN CURATION

In 2000, the MSB Division of Fishes moved into a renovated museum facility across from the UNM Department of Biology. This afforded more space and improved facilities for collection archives and specimen processing.



Figure 1. MSB Division of Fishes archives

The MSB collections of fishes (47% from the San Juan River) now occupy 1,858 linear meters of shelving, which includes growth space (Figure 1). Shelving units are mobile or “compacted shelving” eliminating unused aisle space, which means more space for shelves (Figure 2).

The fluid collection room is maintained at a temperature of 18°C and lighting is kept to a minimum by illuminating only a few sections of shelves at any one time. Otherwise, the room is kept dark. Four-hour fire walls, overhead emergency wet pipe sprinkler system, floor drains with holding tank for large spills, and controlled room access (alarmed to UNM Campus Police during off hours) are all part of the improvements in the new facility for maintaining the fish collections (and all MSB fluid-preserved collections) in optimal, secure conditions. In 2014, upgrades were made to the HVAC system to control temperature and air flow. A new smoke alarm system was also installed.



Figure 2. MSB Division of Fishes compactor shelves with jar and tank collections

Processing San Juan River collections has been greatly facilitated by having two fume hoods with large processing sinks and eleven workstations with point exhaust or fume collectors in the specimen preparation labs (Figure 3). Many of the San Juan River collections are initially processed in 5% buffered formalin, making it necessary to have good ventilation. Barrels of chemicals are easily accessible in a flammable storage room; distilled water points of use, compressed air and vacuum outlets are placed throughout the lab areas. These new preparation and research labs have ample room for working with specimen jars and lap top computers (electronic calipers); there are multiple workstations for researchers, staff, and student employees (Figure 4). Wireless high speed internet access is available throughout the building thereby aiding in data transfer between staff and researchers.

Durable, high quality supplies and materials are necessary to successfully preserve and curate San Juan River specimens. These supplies include glass jars, either Le Parfait captive lid jars with custom made Buna-N rubber gaskets or Paragon flint glass jars with polypropylene caps and stainless steel “cadaver” tanks with nylon gaskets that are chemical resistant. All specimen containers, used by the MSB, are considered standard and acceptable for long-term preservation of fluid preserved collections (Cato, 2001). Forty percent of the total MSB fish collection is maintained in glass jars, the smallest being 8 ounce Paragon flint glass to the largest, the 3-liter Le Parfait glass jar with captive lid. Five percent of the collection is stored in gasketed, stainless steel tanks (18 and 35 gallon capacity) used for oversized fish specimens. About fifty-five percent of the collections are maintained in borosilicate (nonreactive) glass vials that are stored in 3-liter Le Parfait jars (i.e., a vial jar system) filled with either 5% buffered formalin, 70% ethanol, or 95% ethanol.

Typically, vial jar collections contain fish larvae and eggs. Annual purchases of glassware, formaldehyde, buffering chemicals, and ethanol have averaged from \$3,000 to \$6,000 per year. San Juan River research funding has been an important source of funding for acquiring these some of these supplies.

The MSB operating budget (i.e., permanent funds from New Mexico State funding) has purchased jars, tanks, and preservation fluids. Due to increased freight charges, inflation, and current economic conditions, many of the supplies have become very costly. Glass jars, vials, cotton plugs, gaskets and caps on average cost \$2,100 to \$4,000 per year. Currently, one 55-gallon barrel of 37% formaldehyde costs \$480. The annual cost for formalin buffering chemicals is \$840, and cost for a 55-gallon drum of 95% ethanol (technical grade) can vary each year but on an average costs \$500 a drum. (MSB Division of Fishes typically uses 8 to 10 drums of ethanol per year for specimen preservation.) Funding received from the US Bureau of Reclamation has been crucial for purchasing preservation chemicals and other supplies for optimal curation of San Juan River specimen collections.



Figure 3. MSB fish specimen preparation lab



Figure 4. MSB Research lab for fish identification and analyses

For 2015, permanent staff at the MSB Division of Fishes are Curator of Fishes (0.33 FTE) and Collections Manager (1.0 FTE). Funded under USBR Grant Agreement R13AP40007, the Graduate Student Research Assistant (1.0 FTE), charged with collecting and identifying larval fishes from the Upper Colorado River Basin; Curatorial Assistant (0.76 FTE), charged with processing, cataloging, and integrating all San Juan River fish specimens and records; two undergraduate curatorial assistants (0.38 FTE) to assist in museum lab; Curator of Fishes (0.08 FTE) summer salary; and a Postdoctoral (1.0 FTE) position for data synthesis and integration.

Primary contributors (past and present) of San Juan River specimens have been American Southwest Ichthyological Research, Albuquerque NM (ASIR), Museum of Southwestern Biology, Albuquerque NM (MSB), the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe (NMDGF), Utah Department of Wildlife Resources, Moab UT (UDWR), US Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO (USBR), and US Fish and Wildlife Service, Grand Junction CO.

#### RESULTS FOR SJRRIP SPECIMEN CURATION

To date, 44,255 lots or 1,530,729 specimens collected by the San Juan River research group have been processed, cataloged, and archived at the Museum of Southwestern Biology, Division of Fishes (Figures 5 and 6). There are 19,540 unique San Juan River collection sites georeferenced and available in ArcView. Over 25,000 pages of San Juan River field notes and data sheets have been digitally captured, cleaned, and saved in tif and pdf formats for the electronic archives; the original field notes and data sheets are permanently stored in acid-free document boxes for long-term conservation.

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<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/sci-collections-report-2009-rev2.pdf>

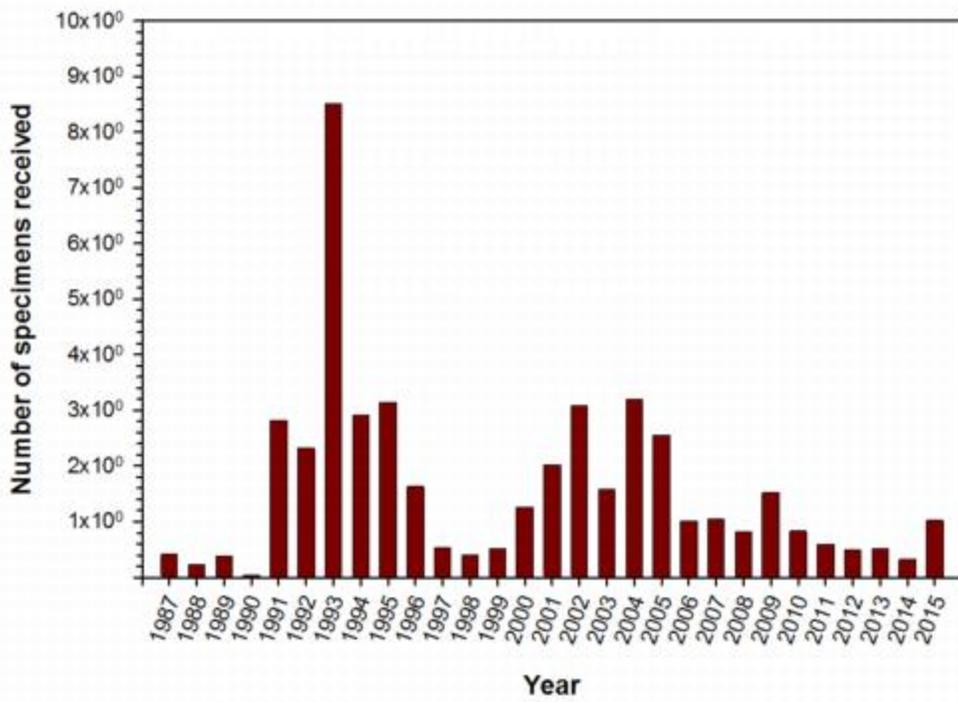


Figure 5. Number of specimens received by MSB from the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program, 1987-2015.

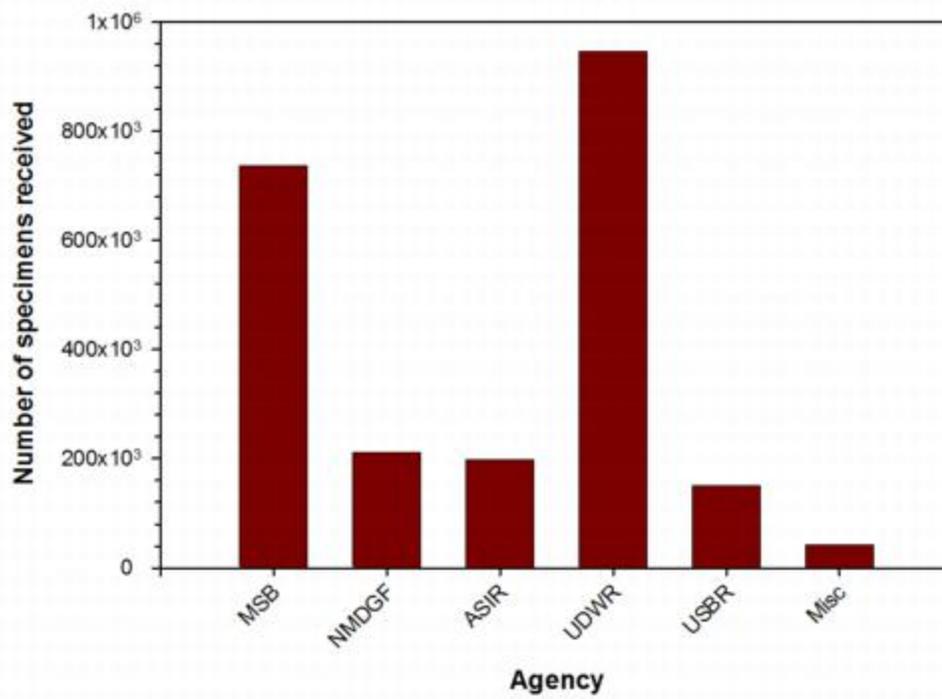


Figure 6. Number of specimens MSB received from the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program by agency between 1987 – 2015.

Appendix I. SJRRIP Specimens Received by MSB Division of Fishes

| MSB ACC                                    | Project Name  | Source/ Principle   | Lots | Spec'ns |
|--|---|---------------------|------|---------|
| Unacc 1987                                 | SJR 1987 Post Larval Age 0 Colorado pikeminnow monitoring | UDWR, C.W. Meyer    | 58   | 638     |
| Unacc 1987                                 | SJR 1987 Upper Reach                                      | MSB, S.P. Platania  | 224  | 19824   |
| Unacc 1988                                 | SJR 1988 Secondary Channel Survey                         | NMDGF, D.L. Propst  | 274  | 11614   |
| Unacc 1988                                 | SJR 1988 Species Record: <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>      | UDWR, B. Roberts    | 1    | 1       |
| Unacc 1989                                 | SJR 1989 Animas & San Juan R.                             | MSB, S.P. Platania  | 194  | 11051   |
| Unacc 1989                                 | SJR 1989 Secondary Channel Survey                         | NMDGF, D.L. Propst  | 57   | 7624    |
| Unacc 1990                                 | SJR 1990 Secondary Channel Survey                         | NMDGF, D.L. Propst  | 146  | 1589    |
| Unacc 1991                                 | SJR 1991 Drift Net at NM RM 119.7                         | UDWR                | 61   | 2475    |
| Unacc 1991                                 | SJR 1991 Fishes Early Life History                        | UDWR                | 3422 | 120077  |
| Unacc 1991                                 | SJR 1991 Secondary Channel Survey                         | NMDGF, D.L. Propst  | 114  | 1323    |
| Unacc 1991                                 | SJR 1991 Fishes Early Life History                        | USBR, K. Lashmett   | 76   | 17245   |
| Unacc 1991                                 | SJR 1991 Species Record: <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>      | USFWS, F.K. Pfeifer | 1    | 1       |
| Unacc 1992                                 | SJR 1992 NM RM 119.7 & UT RM 53                           | UDWR, C. Wethington | 361  | 1137    |
| Unacc 1992                                 | SJR 1992 Fishes Early Life History                        | UDWR                | 3189 | 93489   |
| Unacc 1992                                 | SJR 1992 Fishes Early Life History                        | USBR, K. Lashmett   | 122  | 18214   |
| Unacc 1992                                 | SJR 1992 Secondary Channel Survey                         | NMDGF, D.L. Propst  | 161  | 2000    |
| Unacc 1992                                 | SJR 1992 Upper Reach                                      | MSB, S.P. Platania  | 17   | 262     |
| Unacc 1993                                 | SJR 1993 Secondary Channel Survey                         | NMDGF, D.L. Propst  | 503  | 17177   |
| Formal museum accessioning started in 1993 |   |                     |      |         |
| ACC1993-II:2                               | SJR 1991-1993 Fishes Young of Year Survey                 | USBR, K. Lashmett   | 652  | 73557   |
| ACC1993-II:22                              | SJR 1991 Fishes Early Life History Seine Coll'ns          | UDWR, M.J. Buntjer  | 3780 | 122536  |
| ACC1993-III:31                             | SJR 1992 Fishes Early Life History Seine Coll'ns          | UDWR, M.J. Buntjer  | 3550 | 94626   |
| ACC1993-VIII:23                            | SJR 1993 Fishes Early Life History Seine Coll'ns          | UDWR, M.J. Buntjer  | 2889 | 117448  |
| ACC1993-X:25                               | SJR 1993 Species Record: <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>   | USFWS, J.E. Brooks  | 1    | 1       |
| ACC1994-VIII:26                            | SJR 1994 Light Trap Coll'ns: Lake Powell                  | NPS-AZ, S. Dodson   | 58   | 26889   |
| ACC1994-X:10                               | SJR 1994 Drift Net & Seine Coll'ns Surveys                | USBR/UDWR           | 2476 | 106486  |
| ACC1994-X:10                               | SJR 1994 Secondary Channel Survey                         | NMDGF, D.L. Propst  | 229  | 11954   |

## Appendix I. SJRRIP Specimens Received by MSB Division of Fishes, cont.

| MSB ACC        | Project Name   | Source/ Principle  | Lots | Spec'ns |
|----------------|--|--------------------|------|---------|
| ACC1995-VI:4   | SJR 1995 Fishes Early Life History Seine Coll'ns     | UDWR, T. Chart     | 998  | 46310   |
| ACC1995-VI:4   | SJR 1995 Larval Fish Drift Net Coll'ns               | MSB, S.P. Platania | 722  | 5163    |
| ACC1995-VI:4   | SJR 1995 Secondary Channel Coll'ns                   | NMDGF, D.L. Propst | 899  | 53613   |
| ACC1995-XII:18 | SJR 1995 Eggs and Larvae for identification          | E.R.L., T. Gilson  | 119  | 769     |
| ACC1996-II:7   | SJR 1996 Secondary Channel Survey                    | NMDGF, D.L. Propst | 431  | 21779   |
| ACC1996-VII:1  | SJR 1996 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Drift Net Survey | MSB, S.P. Platania | 240  | 1265    |
| ACC1996-VII:1  | SJR 1996 Early Life History Seine Coll'ns            | UDWR, T. Chart     | 826  | 58296   |
| ACC1997-VII:9  | SJR 1997 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Drift Net Survey | MSB, S.P. Platania | 337  | 2144    |
| ACC1997-VII:9  | SJR 1997 Early Life History Seine Coll'ns            | UDWR, T. Chart     | 347  | 14972   |
| ACC1997-VII:9  | SJR 1997 Secondary Channel Survey                    | NMDGF, D.L. Propst | 624  | 8956    |
| ACC1997-IV:1   | SJR 1997 Razorback Sucker Light Trap Survey          | MSB, S.P. Platania | 63   | 296     |
| ACC1998-VII:5  | SJR 1998 Early Life History Seine Coll'ns            | UDWR, T. Chart     |      |         |
| ACC1998-VII:5  | SJR 1998 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Drift Net Survey | MSB, S.P. Platania | 523  | 2457    |
| ACC1998-IV:22  | SJR 1998 Larval Razorback Sucker Light Trap Survey   | MSB, S.P. Platania | 391  | 13610   |
| ACC1998-VII:31 | SJR 1998 Rates of Drift Transport-Incidental Coll'ns | MSB, S.P. Platania |      |         |
| ACC1998-XI:2   | SJR 1998 Secondary Channel Survey                    | NMDGF, D.L. Propst | 504  | 4257    |
| ACC1999-IV:9   | SJR 1999 Larval Razorback Sucker Seine Survey        | MSB, S.P. Platania | 351  | 20339   |
| ACC1999-VI:22  | SJR 1999 Rates of Drift Transport-Incidental Coll'ns | MSB, S.P. Platania |      |         |
| ACC1999-VI:23  | SJR 1999 Early Life History Seine Coll'ns            | UDWR, T. Chart     |      |         |
| ACC1999-VI:23  | SJR 1999 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow MEC Survey       | MSB, S.P. Platania | 180  | 363     |
| ACC1999-VI:23  | SJR 1999 Secondary Channel Survey                    | NMDGF, D.L. Propst | 264  | 4773    |

## Appendix I. SJRRIP Specimens Received by MSB Division of Fishes, cont.

| MSB ACC         | Project   | Source/ Principle     | Lots | Spec'ns |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|------|---------|
| ACC2000-IV:4    | SJR 2000 Larval Razorback Sucker Drift Net Survey       | MSB, S.P. Platania    | 506  | 11382   |
| ACC2000-VI:8    | SJR 2000 Drift Transport Study-Incidental Coll'ns       | MSB, S.P. Platania    |      |         |
| ACC2000-VII:3   | SJR 2000 Secondary Channel & Red Shiner Study           | NMDGF, D.L. Propst    | 1319 | 27714   |
| ACC2000-VII:3   | SJR 2000 Fishes Early Life History Seine Collections    | UDWR, S. Meisner      | 592  | 21589   |
| ACC2000-VII:3   | SJR 2000 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Drift Net           | MSB, S.P. Platania    | 327  | 2138    |
| ACC2001-III:28  | SJR 2001 Live Larval Razorback Sucker Interim Facility  | MSB, S.P. Platania    | 1    | 163     |
| ACC2001-IV:17   | SJR 2001 Larval Razorback Sucker Survey                 | MSB, S.P. Platania    | 604  | 95598   |
| ACC2001-VII:3   | SJR 2001 Secondary Channel Survey                       | NMDGF, D.L. Propst    | 8    | 403     |
| ACC2001-VII:3   | SJR 2001 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Drift Net Survey    | MSB, S.P. Platania    | 307  | 4873    |
| ACC2002-IV:22   | SJR 2002 Larval Razorback sucker Survey                 | MSB, W.H. Brandenburg | 679  | 56266   |
| ACC2002-IV:22   | SJR 2002 Live Larval Razorback suckers Interim Facility | MSB, T.F. Turner      |      |         |
| ACC2002-VII:2   | SJR 2002 Species record: <i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>     | USGS, G. Mueller      | 1    | 1       |
| ACC2002-VII:8   | SJR 2002 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Survey              | MSB, M.A. Farrington  | 377  | 90541   |
| ACC2002-VII:8   | SJR 2002 Small Bodied Fish Study                        | NMDGF, D.L. Propst    | 95   | 7511    |
| ACC2003-II:26   | SJR 2003 Hybrid Catostomid Coll'ns                      | USFWS, D. Ryden       | 1    | 1       |
| ACC2003-IV:24   | SJR 2003 Larval Razorback Sucker Survey                 | MSB, W.H. Brandenburg | 571  | 40184   |
| ACC2003-VII:10  | SJR 2003 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Survey              | MSB, M.A. Farrington  | 831  | 34157   |
| ACC2003-X:19    | SJR 2003 Small Bodied Fish Study                        | NMDGF, D.L. Propst    | 250  | 4654    |
| ACC2004-IV:19   | SJR 2004 Larval Razorback sucker Survey                 | MSB, W.H. Brandenburg | 541  | 14538   |
| ACC2004-VII:23  | SJR 2004 Larval Pikeminnow Survey                       | MSB, M.A. Farrington  | 662  | 145532  |
| *ACC2004-X:5    | SJR 2004 Hogback Diversion Canal                        | MSB, S.P. Platania    | 222  | 1545    |
| ACC2005-I:13    | SJR 2004 Small Bodied Fish Study                        | NMDGF, D.L. Propst    | 346  | 17409   |
| ACC2005-IV:6    | SJR 2005 Hybrid Catostomid Collections                  | MSB, M.A. Farrington  |      |         |
| ACC2005-IV:18   | SJR 2005 Larval Razorback sucker Survey                 | MSB, W.H. Brandenburg | 502  | 19163   |
| ACC2005-VII:13  | SJR 2005 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Survey              | MSB, M.A. Farrington  | 791  | 89513   |
| ACC2005-VIII:16 | SJR 2005 Hogback Diversion Canal                        | MSB, S.P. Platania    |      |         |

## Appendix I. SJRRIP Specimens Received by MSB Division of Fishes, cont.

| MSB ACC          | Project                                       | Source/ Principle                        | Lots | Spec'ns |
|------------------|---|--|------|---------|
| ACC2005-X:19     | SJR 2005 Small Bodied Fish Study              | NMDGF, D.L. Propst                       | 124  | 1364    |
| ACC2006-IV:19    | SJR 2006 Larval Razorback Sucker Survey       | MSB, W.H. Brandenburg                    | 591  | 25080   |
| ACC2006-VII:17   | SJR 2006 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Survey    | MSB, M.A. Farrington                     | 667  | 25444   |
| ACC2007-IV:16    | SJR 2007 Larval Razorback Sucker Survey       | ASIR, W.H. Brandenburg                   | 425  | 21886   |
| ACC2007-VII:23   | SJR 2007 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Survey    | ASIR, M.A. Farrington                    | 352  | 30942   |
| ACC2007-X:14     | SJR 2007 Small Bodied Fishes/Fall Monitoring  | NMDGF, D.L. Propst                       | 20   | 500     |
| ACC2008-IV:14    | SJR 2008 Larval Razorback Sucker Survey       | ASIR, W.H. Brandenburg                   | 339  | 23318   |
| ACC2008-VI:3     | SJR 2008 Small Bodied Fishes/Fall Monitoring  | NMDGF, D.L. Propst                       | 6    | 504     |
| ACC2008-VII:21   | SJR 2008 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Survey    | ASIR, M.A. Farrington                    | 666  | 16964   |
| ACC2009-IV:13    | SJR 2009 Larval Razorback Sucker Survey       | ASIR, W.H. Brandenburg                   | 377  | 5663    |
| ACC2009-VII:27   | SJR 2009 Colorado Pikeminnow Survey           | ASIR, M.A. Farrington                    | 549  | 66489   |
| ACC2009-XII:8    | SJR 2009 Small Bodied Fishes Survey           | NMDGF, D.L. Propst                       | 74   | 3924    |
| ACC2010-III:25   | SJR 2010 Larval Razorback Sucker Survey       | ASIR, W.H. Brandenburg                   | 566  | 12646   |
| ACC2010-VII:19   | SJR 2010 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Survey    | ASIR, M.A. Farrington                    | 663  | 28624   |
| ACC2010-XI:16    | SJR 2010 Small Bodied Fishes Survey           | NMDGF, A.M. Monic                        | 13   | 186     |
| ACC2011-IV:19    | SJR 2011 Larval Razorback Sucker Survey       | ASIR, W.H. Brandenburg                   | 373  | 10550   |
| ACC2011-VII:18   | SJR 2011 Larval Colorado Pikeminnow Survey    | ASIR, M.A. Farrington                    | 490  | 17704   |
| *ACC2011-VIII:26 | Lake Powell 2011-2015 Razorback Sucker Survey | USFWS, B. Hines                          | 1725 | 46,171  |
| ACC2011-IX:14    | SJR 2011 Small Bodied Fishes Survey           | NMDGF, A.M. Monic & E.I. Gilbert         | 36   | 400     |
| ACC2012-II:29    | Survey of Dirty Devil River, UT               | ASIR, S.P. Platania                      | 36   | 174     |
| ACC2012-IV:16    | SJR 2012 Larval Fishes Survey                 | ASIR W.H. Brandenburg & M.A. Farrington  | 883  | 26852   |
| ACC2012-X:4      | SJR 2012 Small Bodied Fishes Survey           | NMDGF A.M. Monic & E.I. Gilbert          | 17   | 170     |
| ACC2013-IV:15    | SJR 2013 Larval Fishes Survey                 | ASIR W.H. Brandenburg & M.A. Farrington  | 964  | 25938   |
| ACC2013-IX:17    | SJR 2013 Small Bodied Fishes Survey           | NMDGF E.I. Gilbert                       | 20   | 160     |
| ACC2014-IV:21    | SJR 2014 Larval Fishes Survey                 | ASIR, W.H. Brandenburg & M.A. Farrington | 710  | 14,806  |
| ACC2014-IV:28    | SJR Native Fish Stable Isotope Study          | MSB, N.R. Franssen & NMDGF, E.I. Gilbert | 9    | 9       |
| ACC2014-IX:15    | SJR Small Bodied Fishes                       | NMDGF, E.I. Gilbert                      | 55   | 825     |

| MSB ACC       | SJRRIP Project                        | Source                                   | Lots Spec'ns |        |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|--------|
| ACC2015-IV:20 | SJR 2015 Larval Fishes Survey         | ASIR, W.H. Brandenburg & M.A. Farrington | 560          | 17,819 |
| ACC2015-VI:5  | SJR Ecosystems Restoration Initiative | NMDGF, M.P. Zeigler                      | 7            | 18     |
| ACC2015-IX:21 | SJR Catostomid Spawning Periodicity   | KSU N. Cathcart                          | 48           | 576    |
| ACC2015-XI:18 | SJR 2015 Small-Bodied Fishes Survey   | NMDGF, M.P. Zeigler                      | 48           | 240    |

\* Open Accession –possible short term project or continuous

## Appendix II. MSB Protocol for SJRRIP Specimen and Specimen Data Curation

1. San Juan River collections are removed from Whirl-Pak® sample bags within a week after receipt by MSB staff. All “field formalin” (i.e., unbuffered formalin of unknown concentration) discarded is discarded. The specimens and debris are transferred to glass jars and into new 5% buffered formalin for further fixing. Larval specimens fixed in 95% ethanol for genetics or otolith extraction are removed from Whirl-Pak sample bags, cleaned of debris and put into new 95% ethanol, which is the final preservative.
2. Collections are arranged by field number on accession shelving in the museum archives (cool and dark environment). Original data sheets or field notes are organized and filed in the hardcopy accession files, which are maintained by MSB Collections Manager.
3. Unprocessed collections in 5% buffered formalin are cleaned by student curatorial assistants by pour contents of one collection (larvae and debris) into a tray and removing larval fish specimens from debris using insect forceps. Unsorted fish eggs and larvae are collected into vials so that they are not damaged by labels or other larger specimens.

Appendix II. continued MSB Protocol for SJRRIP Specimen and Specimen Data Curation

4. Cleaned samples are returned to accession shelves in any one of the following preservatives: 5% buffered formalin or 95% ethanol. If the specimens in 5% formalin are to be transferred to 70% ethanol as the final preservative, then they are transferred from formalin to 35% ethanol for the initial rinse of formalin, then to 50% ethanol, and finally to 70% ethanol. Otherwise, larvae are maintained in 5% buffered formalin for long-term archives.
5. As samples are being sorted and identified they are transferred to fresh 5% buffered formalin. Again, one field site collection is worked on at a time to avoid mixing collections from different localities. As each species is identified, the series is counted and the smallest and largest of the series measured in millimeters for standard length or total length (for larvae only). Species identifications and lengths are recorded into an Excel spreadsheet using a notebook laptop.
6. All field and specimen data are captured in an electronic catalog. Once completed, vial and jar labels are produced on a spun bound polyester tag medium via thermal transfer printing system (a permanent label). The student curatorial assistants insert these labels into vials and jars and file the newly labeled jars into the permanent (cataloged), MSB collection by taxa and drainage.
7. Specimen data and all associated digital files of field notes and photographs are backed up and archived on a local Western Digital® ShareSpace 4TB network storage system, a Dell PowerEdge T110 II, and offsite private FTP site set up by the University of New Mexico Zimmerman Library Digital Data Management, Curation, and Archiving Department.

## Appendix III. MSB Data Tables: NTop.db Specimen Data

| Field Name             | Type      | Metadata  |
|------------------------|-----------|---|
| Catnum                 | Number    | MSB catalog number-unique numeric                             |
| Genus                  | Text      | Genus-current designation                                     |
| Species                | Text      | Species-current designation                                   |
| Subspecies             | Text      | Subspecies-current designation                                |
| Station                | Text      | Field no. for locality data-unique alphanumeric               |
| Spec                   | Number    | Number of specimens in series                                 |
| Origno                 | Text      | Any other number related to specimen lot                      |
| NK                     | Text      | Numbers associated with tissues derived from series           |
| ID                     | Text      | Author of current designation                                 |
| Invoice                | Text      | Transaction number assigned to loan, gift derived from series |
| IDDate                 | Date/Time | Date when current specimen taxa designation made              |
| ACC_No                 | Text      | Accession number assigned to project-unique alphanumeric      |
| Kind_Type              | Text      | Vial Jar or Tank specimen deposition                          |
| CalcFld                | CalcFld   | Alphanumeric assigned to Vial Jar                             |
| Other Kind_Type        | Text      | Special Collections, Type storage/deposition                  |
| Storage                | Text      | 70% EtOH, 95% EtOH, 50% ISOH, 5% & 10% Formalin, -80C Freezer |
| Storage_Secondary      | Text      | 70% EtOH, 95% EtOH, 50% ISOH, 5% & 10% Formalin, -80C Freezer |
| Storage_Tertiary       | Text      | 70% EtOH, 95% EtOH, 50% ISOH, 5% & 10% Formalin, -80C Freezer |
| Specimen_Prep          | Text      | Fin clip, tissue, blood sample, etc.                          |
| Size_From              | Number    | Minimal standard length of specimen in cataloged series       |
| Size_To                | Number    | Maximum standard length of specimen in cataloged series       |
| Measure                | Text      | SL or TL Standard or Total Length                             |
| Remarks                | Text      | Any comments related to specimen record                       |
| Last_Modified          | Date/Time | Updated field-changes made to specimen record                 |
| Date_Created           | Date/Time | Original date for specimen record entered in catalog          |
| Inventory              | Text      | T or F specimen inventory                                     |
| Invoice_Conditions     | Text      | Transaction conditions  |
| Published              | Text      | Published: journal, year, vol., number, pages                 |
| Taxonomic_History      | Text      | Original descriptions   |
| Voucher_Collection     | Text      | Specimens designated as vouchers for genetic collections      |
| Link_to_Specimen_Photo | Hyperlink | Linked to photos, data sheets, or other relevant files        |

## Appendix III. MSB Data Tables: NBottom.db Locality Data

| Field Name           | Type      | Metadata   |
|----------------------|-----------|--|
| Station              | Text      | Indexed field. Key. Field number-unique                              |
| Continent            | Text      | Also Ocean   |
| Country              | Text      | Also Island  |
| Drainage             | Text      | MSB defined drainages  |
| State                | Text      | Also Province  |
| County               | Text      | Also District  |
| Original_Locality    | Text      | Locality descriptor verbatim by collector                            |
| Locality             | Text      | Edited "Original Locality" by Collections Manager                    |
| Designation_Locality | Text      | State land, private land, national park, etc.                        |
| LatDec               | Number    | Latitude decimal degrees   |
| LongDec              | Number    | Longitude decimal degrees  |
| CoordConfidence      | Number    | Site within meters   |
| UTM_Easting          | Number    | 6 numbers start  |
| UTM_Northing         | Number    | 7 numbers start  |
| UTM_Zone             | Text      | UTM zone start   |
| UTM_Easting_Stop     | Number    | 6 numbers stop   |
| UTM_Northing_Stop    | Number    | 7 numbers stop   |
| UTM_Zone_Stop        | Text      | UTM Zone stop  |
| Coordinate_Det       | Text      | GPS, Map, etc. by collector or data manager                          |
| Datum                | Text      | NAD27, NAD83 or WGS1984  |
| Gear_Depth_Min       | Number    | Placement of collecting gear-minimum meters                          |
| Gear_Depth_Max       | Number    | Placement of collecting gear-maximum meters                          |
| Water_Depth_Min      | Number    | Depth of water at coll'n site-minimum meters                         |
| Water_Depth_Max      | Number    | Depth of water at coll'n site-maximum meters                         |
| Secchi_Depth         | Number    | Water Visibility at coll'n site-meters                               |
| Gear                 | Text      | Type of collecting gear  |
| Time_From            | Date/Time | Military time start/single value                                     |
| Time_To              | Date/Time | Military time end  |
| Project              | Text      | Name of project/purpose for collecting event                         |
| Collector            | Text      | Initials first name, full last name-all collectors. E.g. A.M. Snyder |
| Associated Field Nos | Text      | Field numbers for data recorded at same collecting event             |
| DateColl_From        | Date/Time | dd/MON/yyyy e.g. 4 JAN 2013 start effort                             |
| DateColl_To          | Date/Time | dd/MON/yyyy e.g. 4 JAN 2013 end effort                               |
| Remarks              | Text      | 255 character space for comments re: collecting effort               |
| Photograph Number    | Text      | Number assigned by collector to photo                                |
| RM_Start             | Number    | River mile starting point  |
| RM_Stop              | Number    | River mile ending point  |
| Township             | Text      | US BLM system E.g. T34   |
| Range                | Text      | US BLM system E.g. R14   |
| Section              | Text      | US BLM system Sec01 NW   |

## Appendix III. MSB Data Tables: NBottom.db Locality Data, continued

| Field Name            | Type      | Metadata  |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| USGS Quadrangle       | Text      | Topo map name   |
| USGS HUC Values       | Number    | USGS Hydrologic Unit Map number                             |
| Width_Min             | Number    | Waterbody width-minimum meters                              |
| Width_Max             | Number    | Waterbody width-maximum meters                              |
| Salinity_Min          | Number    | Water salinity-minimum ppt                                  |
| Salinity_Max          | Number    | Water salinity-maximum ppt                                  |
| Last_Mod              | Date/Time | Updated field-changes made to locality record in Nbottom.db |
| Date_Created          | Date/Time | Original date locality record entered NBottom.db            |
| Temp_Min              | Number    | Water temperature-minimum Celsius                           |
| Temp_Max              | Number    | Water temperature-maximum Celsius                           |
| Water_Descriptor      | Text      | Riffle, main channel, backwater, pool, etc.                 |
| Current_Min           | Number    | Water current-minimum meters/seconds                        |
| Current_Max           | Number    | Water current-maximum meters/seconds                        |
| Vegetation            | Text      | Aquatic vegetation and descriptors                          |
| Air_Temp_Min          | Number    | Ambient air temperature-minimum Celsius                     |
| Air_Temp_Max          | Number    | Ambient air temperature-maximum Celsius                     |
| Bottom_Substrate      | Text      | Substrate descriptor at collection site                     |
| Shore_Description     | Text      | Descriptor of shoreline at site of collection               |
| Min_Gear_Distance     | Number    | Placement of collecting gear from shoreline                 |
| Max_Gear_Distance     | Number    | Placement of collecting gear from shoreline                 |
| Effort                | Number    | Seine effort calculation                                    |
| DO_Min                | Number    | Dissolved oxygen mg/l minimum                               |
| DO_Max                | Number    | Dissolved oxygen mg/l maximum                               |
| Conductivity_True     | Number    | Water Conductivity-true $\mu$ S                             |
| Conductivity_Specific | Number    | Water Conductivity-specific Sc                              |
| pH_Min                | Number    | pH minimum  |
| pH_Max                | Number    | pH maximum  |
| Shock_Seconds         | Number    | Electrofisher effort  |
| Volts                 | Number    | Electrofisher effort  |
| Amps                  | Number    | Electrofisher effort  |
| Start_Flow            | Number    | Flow meter effort beginning value                           |
| End_Flow              | Number    | Flow meter effort ending value                              |
| Flow_Total            | Number    | Flow meter effort (End-Start)                               |

Appendix III. MSB Data Tables: RNTop.db Observation/Released Collections of Fishes

| Field Name   | Type      | Metadata  |
|--------------|-----------|---|
| IDI          | Number    | ACCESS Index field  |
| R Catnum     | Text      | Contains "RELEASED"   |
| Genus        | Text      | Genus-Field ID  |
| Species      | Text      | Species-Field ID  |
| Subspecies   | Text      | Subspecies-Field ID   |
| Station      | Text      | Field No.-Unique  |
| Spec         | Number    | Number of fishes released                                       |
| Origno       | Text      | MSB catalog number of same species vouchers from same field no. |
| NK           | Text      | Tissue No./Genetic Sample                                       |
| ID           | Text      | Author of field identification                                  |
| ID Date      | Date/Time | Date of field identification                                    |
| ACC_No       | Text      | Accession no. of project-unique                                 |
| Size_From    | Number    | Minimal standard length of released fishes                      |
| Size_To      | Number    | Maximum standard length of released fishes                      |
| Measure      | Text      | Standard or Total Length  |
| Remarks      | Text      | Additional information re: released fishes                      |
| Last_Mod     | Date/Time | Updated field-changes made to specimen record                   |
| Date_Created | Date/Time | Original date for specimen record entered in catalog            |

Appendix IV. Examples of SJRIP Field Notes.

Field No.: WMB11-035  
Monitoring site

Date: 16 May 2011 / ..... Acc. No.: 2011-11:17

State/Country: New Mexico/USA Locality: San Juan River @ RM 137.1  
Malpais Arroyo

County: San Juan Co. Drainage: San Juan Quad.: Rattlesnake

Coordinate System: UTM Datum: NAD 27 Zone: 12S

Start (E/W): 698072 (N/S): 4082062 Stop: E/W: ..... N/S: .....

Shore Description: sand; dirt bank willow; Russian olive Air Temp.: 27.8 °C

Water Description: Pool

Substrate: silt Water Depth: 0.1-2.0 m

Aquatic Vegetation / Cover: none / debris

Water Temp.: 20.2 °C Velocity (est.): 0-1 m/s Width (est.): 13 m

Secchi Depth: 30 cm D.O.: 8.47 mg/l Conductivity (µS): C. 825 / Sc. 910 Salinity: 0.45 ppt pH: 8.39

Method of Capture: lure seine / 1m x 1m

hauls: 5 Area: 38.0 m<sup>2</sup> Shocking Sec.: ..... Volts: ..... Amps: .....

Collectors: WHSrudenburg; ALBerkelaw

Time: (start) 1331 h (stop) 1407 h Notes taken by: WHSrudenburg

Orig. Preservative: 95% EtOH Photographs: 0538

Released fishes: Yes  (No) (list separately): Larval fishes:  / No

It appears as though Malpais Arroyo is flowing slightly. The channel is deep and most of the habitats available are well over a meter deep. Our efforts were concentrated in the shallower portions of the arroyo. Fish were collected in creek bed but densities were very low. A haul run in a very shallow portion of the arroyo produced all the age 1 fish, mostly comprised of Gambusia affinis. Haul lengths were 12.9, 4.2, 2.2, 8.8; 9.9 m.

Appendix IV. Examples of SJRRIP Field Notes, cont.

Page 1 of 7

Field Number: MP215-56 Date: 9/12/15 Time 1400 to 1600

State/Country: NM County: San Juan

Drainage: San Juan Water: San Juan River

Locality: RM DM  
1<sup>o</sup> Channel

Location: 125 0745401 E 4069055N

Ambient Temp: \_\_\_\_\_ °C H<sub>2</sub>O Temp: 18.9 °C Weather: Sunny, Hot

Dissolved O: 6.01 mg/L 64.9 % Sat pH: \_\_\_\_\_

Conductivity: 407.1 µmhos/cm SO<sub>4</sub>: 456.1 Salinity: 0.2 ‰

Vegetation: Russian Olive

Current: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_ Bottom: \_\_\_\_\_

Gear: 3.0m Seine # Hauls: 13 Set Time: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Shocking Seconds: \_\_\_\_\_ Voltage \_\_\_\_\_ Ampe: \_\_\_\_\_

Collected by: M.P. Ziegler, J.F.T. Trojita, W. Chen,  
A.M. Manó

Original preservative: \_\_\_\_\_

1-1-2008 04:11 PM  
www.nmdgf.state.nm.us  
(505) 322-3300

1-2008

Appendix IV. Examples of SJRRIP Field Notes, cont.

Site # 15

SAN JUAN EARLY LIFE STAGE SAMPLING

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RMI: 120.0 DATE: 090496 HABITAT: MC OR SC SPECIFIC HAB: L1  
 BA LENGTH (m): 150+ BA MEAN WIDTH (m): 16 BA MAX DEPTH (ft): 3.0  
 BA MOUTH WIDTH (m): 55.0  
 BA TEMP: 24 MC TEMP: 23 CREW: \_\_\_\_\_

---

SEINE HAUL INFO

TYPE OF SEINE: 1/16" OR 1/32" OR DIP NET (circle one)  
 SAMPLE #: SJFC33 START TIME: 16:14 TEMP: 24 LENGTH OF HAUL (m): 40  
 WIDTH OF HAUL: 4m D<sub>max</sub> (ft): 3.0 D<sub>max</sub> SUB: 1°: SL 2°: SL  
 D<sub>1</sub>: (ft): 2.0 D<sub>1</sub> SUB: 1°: SL 2°: SL D<sub>2</sub>: 0.1 SUB: 1°: SL 2°: SL  
 MUD DEPTH: 2 ACROSS/PARALLEL: A/P FISH PRESERVED: Y # of WHIRL PACS: 1

---

SEINE HAUL INFO

TYPE OF SEINE: 1/16" OR 1/32" OR DIP NET (circle one)  
 SAMPLE #: SJFC34 START TIME: 16:21 TEMP: 25 LENGTH OF HAUL (m): 39  
 WIDTH OF HAUL: 4m D<sub>max</sub> (ft): 1.5 D<sub>max</sub> SUB: 1°: SL 2°: SL  
 D<sub>1</sub>: (ft): 0.8 D<sub>1</sub> SUB: 1°: SL 2°: SL D<sub>2</sub>: 0.6 SUB: 1°: SL 2°: SL  
 MUD DEPTH: 1 ACROSS/PARALLEL: A/P FISH PRESERVED: Y # of WHIRL PACS: 1

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SEINE HAUL INFO

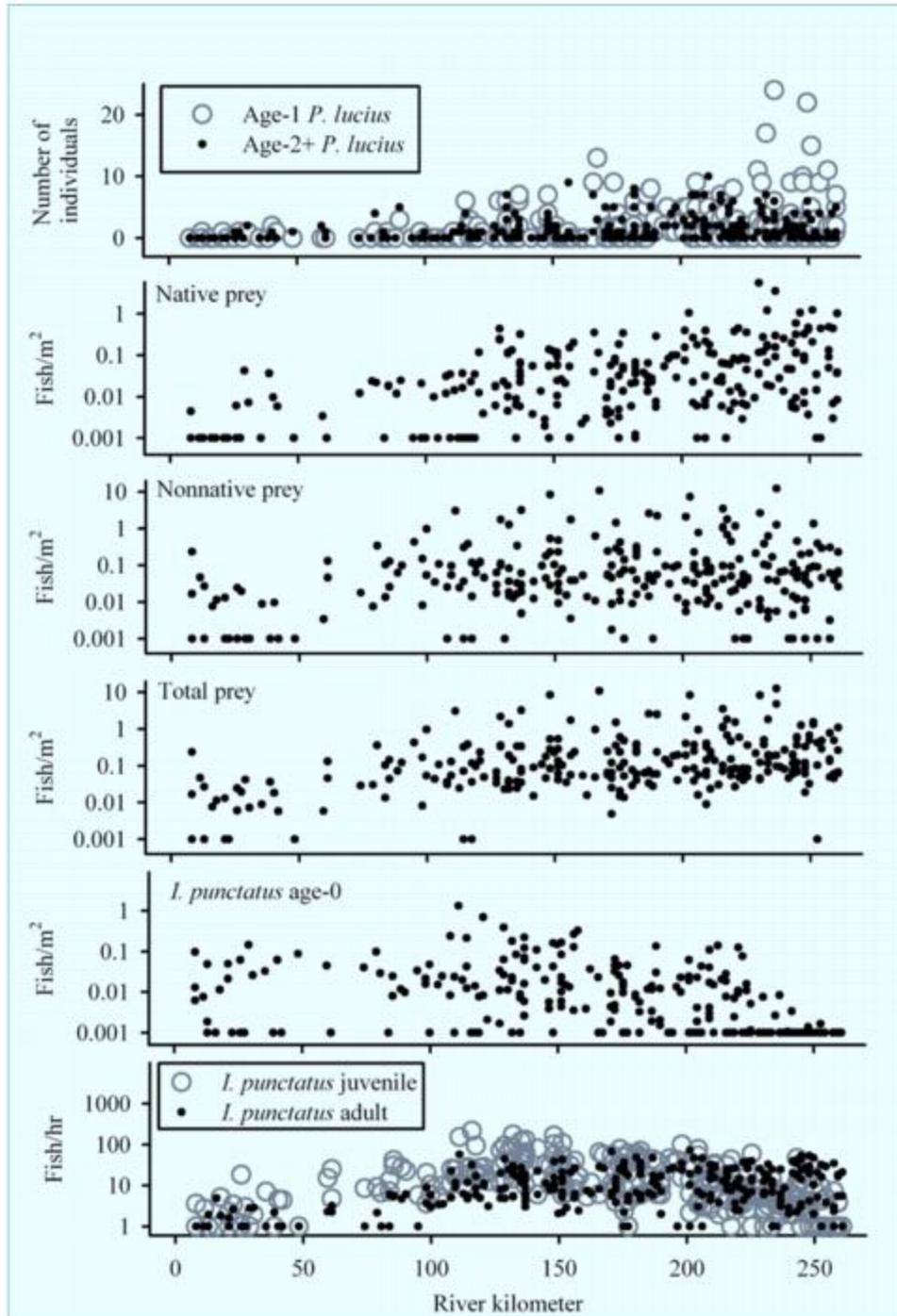
TYPE OF SEINE: 1/16" OR 1/32" OR DIP NET (circle one)  
 SAMPLE #: SJFC35 START TIME: 16:25 TEMP: 30 LENGTH OF HAUL (m): 18  
 WIDTH OF HAUL: 4m D<sub>max</sub> (ft): 1.5 D<sub>max</sub> SUB: 1°: SL 2°: CO  
 D<sub>1</sub>: (ft): 1.2 D<sub>1</sub> SUB: 1°: SL 2°: CO D<sub>2</sub>: 0.8 SUB: 1°: SL 2°: CO  
 MUD DEPTH: 1 ACROSS/PARALLEL: A/P FISH PRESERVED: Y # of WHIRL PACS: 1

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

# San Juan River Restoration Implementation Program (SJRRIP)

## Data Synthesis and Integration 2015

USBR AND MSB AGREEMENT R13AP40007



INTRODUCTION SAN JUAN RIVER DATA SYNTHESIS AND INTEGRATION.

Dr. Nathan R. Franssen has continued (FY15) to synthesize, analyze, and integrate relevant elements of the SJRRIP's immense database in conjunction with the Program Office biologist. As a postdoctoral research associate, Dr. Franssen possesses strong quantitative, writing, and research skills and is devoted to this project without other time commitments or academic demands. The results of Franssen's research will be presented to the Program's Biology and Coordination committees, interested public audiences, and to scientific journals for peer review and publication. Dr. Franssen will closely collaborate with those responsible for directing relevant studies (e.g., adult monitoring, nonnative fish removal, and native fish augmentation) and key researchers associated with the Program to identify critical questions for integration and analysis. Collaboration will continue with appropriate project leaders and researchers in analyzing data and drafting manuscripts detailing results of investigations. The overarching goal of these efforts will be to provide a data-driven and scientifically sound approach to making recommendations regarding flow management, recovery criteria for endangered species, and measurements of Program success (or shortfalls).

Since October 2012, Dr. Franssen has led and collaborated in his efforts to synthesize and integrate San Juan River data, working with other SJRRIP investigators in both the office and field. These collaborators for FY14 have been Scott L. Durst (SJRRIP Program Office, Albuquerque), Dale W. Ryden (USFWS), Keith B. Gido, Ph.D. (Kansas State University), David L. Propst, Ph.D. (UNM), Eliza I. Gilbert (NMGF), and Vince Lamarra (Ecosystems Research Institute).

During FY15, issues and topics to address in SJRRIP data analysis have expanded and ongoing discussions with key Program personnel and Biology and Coordination Committees have identified additional studies beyond the FY14 scope of work. These are addressed in the FY15 Scope of Work, submitted to the Program office and the US Bureau of Reclamation.

#### METHODS USED IN SAN JUAN RIVER DATA SYNTHESIS AND INTEGRATION.

In FY15 Dr. Franssen worked with researchers in the SJRRIP Program Office, USFWS, Albuquerque and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe to compile and analyze SJRRIP data for three projects that will help aid management activities aimed at recovering threatened San Juan River fishes:

- Survival and movement of stocked Razorback Sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*)
- Predicted responses of a nonnative Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) to managed exploitation in a large southwestern river

Specific questions posed in each project necessitated the integration of several long-term SJRRIP datasets prior to analyses. These datasets were obtained from the SJRRIP Program Office and included data from: nonnative fish removal and large-bodied fish monitoring.

Appropriate statistical analyses were conducted for each project to test hypotheses, answer specific questions, or performed in a more exploratory manner. Specifics on methods used for each project can be found in the published manuscripts or in the draft manuscripts disseminated to the Biology Committee in FY15.

## RESULTS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN SAN JUAN RIVER DATA SYNTHESIS AND INTEGRATION

Two projects were completed in FY15. Below are the project citations with descriptions of the status of the projects and their major findings and conclusions:

Franssen, N.R. and S.L. Durst. Survival and movement of stocked Razorback Sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) in the San Juan River, NM and UT. *In revision*.

- This project quantified survival of stocked Razorback Sucker from different hatcheries, stocking sites on the river, and variation in stocking sizes.
- This manuscript was rejected from Transactions of the American Fisheries Society.
- This project spurred further research on effects of stocking locations and fish conditioning on survival. Two ongoing experiments, once completed will be incorporated into this revised manuscript and resubmitted.

Franssen, N.R., S.L. Durst, B. Duran, B. Hines, C.N. Cathcart, and J.E. Davis. Predicted responses of a nonnative Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) to managed exploitation in a large southwestern river.

- This project used fisheries stock assessment software to quantify predicted responses of the Channel Catfish population to differing levels of exploitation and minimum size limits.
- Results suggested current levels of exploitation would not crash the population; however, they will likely have a strong impact on the total amount of biomass in the river.
- Contrary to other investigations, we found the Channel Catfish population's size and biomass structure has decreased since the early 1990s, suggesting the nonnative removal program has affected the Channel Catfish population.

The results of San Juan River Restoration Implementation Program data integration and synthesis were presented at the following meetings:

- Franssen, N.R. December 3, 2014. Biology Committee Meeting. Durango, CO.
- Franssen, N.R. January 13, 2015. Annual Researchers Meeting, Moab, UT.
- Franssen, N.R. February 19, 2015. Biology Committee Meeting. Durango, CO.
- Franssen, N.R. May 12, 2015. Biology Committee Meeting. Durango, CO.
- Franssen, N.R. May 13, 2015. Biology/Coordination Committee Meeting. Durango, CO.

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