

Topock Marsh General Fish Survey 2012

- Location:** Topock Marsh
- Date:** February 8th – 10th, 2012
- Agencies:** AZGFD, Gregg Cummins, David Partridge, Matt Chmiel
- Purpose:** Assess overall fish species presence, condition, population dynamics in order to evaluate fish management activities
- Gear:** 150ft. Experimental Gillnets, work boats, GPS unit, maps
- Methods:** Experimental gillnets using standardized protocol (150ft long, 6ft deep, 6 individual-panels with ½, 1, 1 ½, 2, 2 ½, and 3 inch mesh sizes, random deployment of size of panels to shore, set in evening and pulled the next morning (usually between 14-18 hour sets), all fish measured, weighed and recorded.
- Results:** Gizzard shad (DOCE) have arrived at Topock Marsh. DOCE made up close to 9% (see Table 1) of the total catch with 16 individual fish compared to only 2 threadfin shad (DOPE). Channel catfish (ICPU) and largemouth bass (MISA) are doing well with 14.5% and 12.8% of the total catch. Black crappies (PONI) were well represented with 10% of the total. Striped bass showed a dramatic increase with 24.6% of the catch. Razorback suckers (XYTE) were healthy and made up 12.3% of the total catch. All three of the *Lepomis* species only made up 1.12% of the total catch.
- Recommendations:** Continued monitoring in order to document how DOCE have affected the marsh and how XYTE are continuing to survive and possibly thrive in the marsh.

Table 1. Number, relative abundance, relative biomass and catch per unit effort by gill nets at Topock Marsh (1530) February 2012.
 Note: Razorback suckers were stocked in 2010.

n= 179

Total weight= 131003

Total effort units = 184

Species	Common Name	# Sampled	# Measured	% of Total	CPUE	Weight Sampled (g)	% of Total
PONI	Black Crappie	18	18	10%	0.10	3581	3%
MOSA	Striped Bass	44	44	25%	0.24	18736	14%
MISA	Largemouth Bass	23	23	13%	0.13	8306	6%
LECY	Green Sunfish	0	0	0%	0.00	0	0%
LEMA	Bluegill	1	1	1%	0.01	126	0%
LEMI	Redear Sunfish	1	1	1%	0.01	116	0%
ICPU	Channel Catfish	26	26	15%	0.14	27210	21%
DOCE	Gizzard Shad	16	16	9%	0.09	8409	6%
DOPE	Threadfin Shad	2	2	1%	0.01	16	0%
CYCA	Common Carp	22	22	12%	0.12	33723	26%
CAAU	Goldfish	0	0	0%	0.00	0	0%
AMNA	Yellow Bullhead	4	4	2%	0.02	677	1%
XYTE	Razorback Sucker	22	22	12%	0.12	30103	23%

Total

179

179

0.97

131003

Submitted by: Gregg Cummins
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