

Topock Marsh General Fish Survey 2013

- Location:** Topock Marsh
- Date:** February 13th-15th, 2013
- Agencies:** AZGFD, Gregg Cummins, David Partridge
- Purpose:** Assess overall fish species presence, condition, population dynamics in order to evaluate fish management activities
- Gear:** 150ft. Experimental Gillnets, work boat, 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 slightly increased at Topock Marsh. DOCE made up close to 12% (see Table 1) of the total catch with 22 individual fish compared to zero threadfin shad (DOPE). Channel catfish (ICPU) was the most abundant fish with 37% of the total catch and 52% of the total weight. The average channel catfish in 2013 weighed more than a half pound more than in 2012. Black crappies (PONI) dropped to 4% of the total. Striped bass showed a dramatic decrease to 3% compared to last year's 24.6% of the catch. Razorback suckers (XYTE) were healthy and made up 8% of the total catch. Both of the *Lepomis* species only made up 1.5% 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. Tag searches of razorback suckers showed that the marsh is used by razorbacks from the river and that they can leave and return to the marsh. The new water delivery system may prove to be used by the razorbacks and remote scanners in these canals would show this movement.

Table 1. Number, relative abundance, relative biomass and catch per unit effort by gill nets at Topock Marsh (1530) February 2013.
 Note: Razorback suckers were stocked in 2010.

n= 197

Total weight= 184979

Total effort units = 203

Species	Common Name	# Sampled	# Measured	% of Total	CPUE	Weight Sampled (g)	% of Total
PONI	Black Crappie	8	8	4%	0.04	2522	1%
MOSA	Striped Bass	6	6	3%	0.03	3508	2%
MISA	Largemouth Bass	22	22	11%	0.11	11462	6%
LECY	Green Sunfish	1	1	1%	0.00	69	0%
LEMA	Bluegill	2	2	1%	0.00	71	0%
LEMI	Redear Sunfish	0	0	0%	0.00	0	0%
ICPU	Channel Catfish	72	72	37%	.35	95742	52%
DOCE	Gizzard Shad	24	24	12%	0.12	7957	4%
DOPE	Threadfin Shad	0	0	0%	0.00	0	0%
CYCA	Common Carp	27	27	14%	0.13	34788	19%
CAAU	Goldfish	1	1	1%	0.00	1305	1%
AMNA	Yellow Bullhead	19	19	10%	0.09	4751	3%
XYTE	Razorback Sucker	15	15	8%	0.07	22804	12%
Total		197	197		0.97	184979	

Submitted by: Gregg Cummins
 Region III Fish Program Biologist