

Rocky Mountain Region

Glen Canyon has issued permits for a research project on razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) in Lake Powell and the Colorado River inflow area, and is considering a second proposal for similar work on the San Juan River and adjacent lake waters. The second project would concentrate on Colorado Squawfish (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), which have been found in the vicinity. The razorback is expected to be Federally listed as endangered in the near future and is considered one of the rarest Colorado river native fish. The squawfish already is listed as endangered.

The razorback study, led by the USFWS and Bureau of Reclamation, is a propagation and genetics investigation where fish are being collected for captive

rearing and propagation under controlled conditions. The genetic makeup of the fish will be documented for comparison with closely related species. Park resource management staff participated in the study in April, assisting Utah biologists in collecting 2 adult razorbacks from upper Lake Powell. Both fish were healthy -- in the 2 kg, 60 cm size range: one was a male in spawning condition, indicating some reproductive activities, even though recruitment has not been documented in the region in many years. Upon completion of the study, the original fish or an equal number of progeny will be returned to the areas where the collections were made.

The squawfish work would involve collection, measurement, tagging, and radio-monitoring by Bureau of Reclamation biologists in summer and fall of 1991. Both studies are part of interagency recovery efforts in the upper Colorado River basin. Glen Canyon has submitted a proposal to the Recovery Program for population and habitat research on both species.