PERFORMANCE REPORT

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FEDERAL AID IN SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT

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FEDERAL AID PROJECT F-30-R-33

STATEWIDE FRESHWATER FISHERIES MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2007 Survey Report

Calaveras Reservoir

Prepared by:

Randy Myers and John Dennis Inland Fisheries Division District 1-D Office, San Antonio, Texas





Carter Smith Executive Director

Phil Durocher Director, Inland Fisheries

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3 SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Fish populations were surveyed using electrofishing in fall 2002, 2003, and 2007, bass only electrofishing in fall 2005, gill nets in spring each year from 2006 to 2008, and trap nets in 2004. This report summarizes the results of the surveys and contains a management plan for the reservoir based on those findings.

- Reservoir Description: Calaveras Reservoir is a 3,110-acre power plant cooling reservoir located within the San Antonio city limits. A near-constant water level was maintained by pumping from the San Antonio River during periods of low rainfall and runoff. Angler access and recreational facilities, maintained by the San Antonio River Authority, remained excellent. Both boat ramps were renovated in 2007. Aquatic plant coverage in the reservoir was <1%. Blue tilapia (*Oreochromis aureus*) and sailfin catfish (*Pterygoplichthys multiradiatus*) populations have become well established in the reservoir.
- Management History: Important sport fishes included red drum, palmetto bass, and channel catfish. The red drum and palmetto bass populations were maintained by stocking, with palmetto bass stockings occurring in 8 of the last 10 years and red drum stockings in 9 of the last 10 years. Northern largemouth bass (NLMB) have been stocked to increase genetic diversity; however stocking success was short-lived. Hybrid and sub-adult white crappies were stocked to re-introduce the species to the reservoir; however a self-sustaining white population did not result. Orangemouth corvina and Orangemouth corvina x speckled trout hybrids were stocked to provide an additional sport fish; however these stockings were also terminated because of low success. Angler harvest of all sport fishes, except largemouth bass and red drum, was regulated according to statewide size and daily bag limits. A minimum size limit of 18 inches and a 3-fish daily bag limit were implemented in 1990 for largemouth bass and harvest of red drum was restricted by a 3-fish daily bag and 20-inch minimum size limits.

Fish Community

- Prey species: Gizzard shad, threadfin shad, and bluegill were the primary prey species and present in sufficient numbers and sizes for utilization by predators.
- Catfishes: The reservoir contained an abundant population of channel catfish
 which supported a popular fishery. Blue catfish were also present, but were not
 as abundant as channel catfish.
- Palmetto bass: Population abundance varied somewhat from year to year.
 However, the stockings provided a consistently popular palmetto bass fishery.
- Largemouth bass: Population abundance for this species has increased since 2002, but remained low overall. This species provided a limited fishery.
- Red drum: This species supported a popular fishery; however standard fisheries sampling gears were ineffective at collecting sufficient individuals to monitor trends in abundance and population size structure.
- Management Strategies: Continue to stock palmetto bass and red drum to support these popular fisheries. Also, continue to monitor the largemouth bass population response to the current special harvest regulation.

4 INTRODUCTION

This document is a summary of Calaveras Reservoir fisheries data collected in 2007-2008. Its purpose is to provide fisheries information and make management recommendations to protect and improve the sport fishery. While information on other species of fishes was collected, this report deals primarily with major sport fishes and important prey species. Historical data are presented with the 2007-2008 survey period data for comparison.

Reservoir Description

Calaveras Reservoir is a 3,110-acre power plant cooling reservoir located on Chupaderas and Calaveras Creeks in the San Antonio River Basin. It was constructed in 1969 and is owned and operated by City Public Service (Table 1). The San Antonio River authority regulates access to public facilities at the site. A near-constant water level was maintained by pumping from the San Antonio River during periods of low rainfall and runoff. Boat and bank angler access was excellent and both boat launches were renovated in 2007. The controlling authority was granted TPWD funding to facilitate the boat ramp renovations. Blue tilapia and sailfin catfish (*Plecostomus* spp.) were abundant.

Management History

Previous management strategies and actions: Management strategies and actions from the previous survey report (Dennis 2003) included:

1. Conduct annual stockings of red drum (200/acre) and palmetto bass fingerlings (15/acre).

Action: Palmetto bass fingerlings were stocked at the recommended rate in 2004, 2005, and 2007, and 569,569 fry were stocked in 2006. Red drum were stocked in three of the last four years. No stocking occurred in 2005 because of low hatchery production.

2. Monitor for habitat change and subsequent largemouth bass population response to native vegetation establishment project conducted by City Public Service and a private consulting firm.

Action: Electrofishing surveys were conducted in 2005 and 2007, and habitat was surveyed in 2007. No significant improvement of the aquatic vegetation or largemouth bass population resulted from the vegetation establishment project.

- Monitor crappie population with trap nets subsequent to a 2002 crappie stocking.
 Action: Trap net surveys were conducted in 2003 and 2004 and only one 6-inch white crappie was collected. The stocking did not yield an improved crappie population. Trap netting was discontinued.
- 4. Assist TPWD-IF research staff evaluate fingerling northern largemouth bass (NLMB) stockings in the reservoir as part of a special research project to increase the proportion of northern largemouth bass genotype in reservoirs with ≤1% NLMB genotype to 10% within three years of stocking and evaluate dispersal of the fingerlings as they mature.

Action: Assistance was provided, project completed and the results are summarized in the largemouth bass section of this report. Refer to Garrett (2006) for the complete methods and results associated to this project.

Harvest regulation history: Since impoundment, harvest of all sport fishes except largemouth bass and red drum was managed according to statewide regulations (Table 2). In 1990, an 18-inch minimum size and a 3-fish daily bag limit were implemented for largemouth bass. There is no maximum size limit on red drum in Calaveras Reservoir.

Stocking history: Various species, including non-native fishes, have been stocked into the reservoir. Hybrid black-white crappie and sub-adult white crappie were stocked to re-introduce crappie to the reservoir. Orangemouth corvina and orangemouth corvina-speckled trout hybrids were stocked into the reservoir to provide an additional sport fish. Non-native fish and crappie stockings were terminated because of low stocking success. During the last two decades red drum and palmetto bass were the primary species stocked. The complete stocking history is contained in Table 3.

Vegetation/habitat history: Structural habitat and aquatic vegetation in the reservoir has been sparse since impoundment. Aquatic vegetation has occurred in only shallow water shoreline areas. Cattail and bulrush have been the predominant species, but together usually occupy less than 5 surface acres (Table 4).

METHODS

All surveys were conducted according to the Fishery Assessment Procedures (TPWD, Inland Fisheries Division, unpublished manual revised 2005). Fishes were collected in by electrofishing (1 hour at 12 5-minute stations) and gill netting (5 net-nights at 5 stations). Catch per unit effort (CPUE) for electrofishing was recorded as the number of fish caught per hour (fish/h) of actual electrofishing, and for gill nets as the number of fish per net night (fish/nn). Sampling station locations are shown in Appendix A.

Sampling statistics (CPUE for various length categories), structural indices [Proportional Stock Density (PSD), Relative Stock Density (RSD)], and condition indices [relative weight (W_r)] were calculated for target fishes according to Anderson and Neumann (1996). Index of vulnerability (IOV) was calculated for gizzard shad (DiCenzo et al. 1996). Relative standard error (RSE = 100 X SE of the estimate/estimate) was calculated for all CPUE statistics and SE was calculated for structural indices and IOV.

Ages of palmetto bass were determined using otoliths.

Microsatellite DNA analysis was used in the 2007genetic analysis of age-0 largemouth bass.

Littoral zone/physical habitat, vegetation, angler access, and facility surveys were conducted in accordance with Fishery Assessment Procedures (TPWD, Inland Fisheries Division, unpublished manual revised 2005).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Habitat: In 2007 eroded bank occupied most of the shoreline (91%), and bulrush and cattail were the predominant aquatic vegetation species present which together covered <5 acres (Table 4). Hydrilla was found in 2007, but it occupied only <1 acre of surface area. Because of the physical and chemical characteristics of this reservoir, minimal potential exists for hydrilla to expand to a problematic coverage level.

Prey species: Gizzard shad relative abundance fluctuated widely during the survey period with electrofishing CPUE ranging from 40 fish/h in 2003 to 355 fish/h in 2007 (Figure 1). However, gizzard shad IOV exceeded 75 in all three survey years, suggesting that most fish were small enough to be suitable prey for predator fishes. Threadfin shad were also abundant evidenced by a CPUE of 221fish/h in 2007 (Appendix B). Bluegill abundance was also highly variable during the study period with CPUE ranging from 211 fish/h in 2007 to 501 fish/h in 2003 (Figure 2). The bluegill population continued to be comprised of <4-inch fish.

Blue catfish: Relative abundance was greater in 2008 (8.0 fish/nn) than in 2007 (3.2 fish/nn) and 2006 (1.8 fish/nn). Size structure of the population was good in 2008 as the majority of fish collected were >12 inches (Figure 3).

Channel catfish: Relative abundance remained high with gill net CPUE at 33.0 fish/nn in 2008 (Figure 4). Size structure of the population was excellent as about half of the fish exceeded the minimum length limit (>12 inches). Catfish provided a popular fishery at the reservoir.

Palmetto bass: During the last three survey years, relative abundance was greatest in 2007 at 6.4 fish/nn (Figure 5). Population size structure and growth were sufficient. Palmetto bass grow to harvestable size (>18 inches) in two years.

Largemouth bass: Relative abundance fluctuated during the report period from 9 fish/h in 2002 to 128 fish/h in 2005 (Figures 6 and 7). Population size structure remained poor. No fish ≥18 inches were collected during the four electrofishing surveys (Figures 6 and 7). Florida largemouth bass genetic influence in the population remained high, with percent FLMB alleles at 90.7% in 2007 (Table 5). Division researchers conducted a NLMB stocking project at this reservoir to increase the proportion of the largemouth bass population having the NLMB genotype. In 2005, three years after stocking 200,000 northern largemouth bass, 24% of the fish collected at stocked sites and 17% of the fish collected at non-stocked control sites were of the NLMB genotype (Garrett 2006). Although initially successful, the impact of the stockings was short-lived as no NLMB genotype fish were collected in 2007.

Red drum: Sampling gears were ineffective at capturing a sufficient number of this species to facilitate a population assessment (Figure 8). However, the reservoir provides a popular red drum fishery based upon media and angler catch reports.

Fisheries Management Plan for Calaveras Reservoir, Texas

Prepared-July 2008

ISSUE 1: Palmetto bass and red drum are popular sport fisheries and stocking is needed to support these population of these two species because they do not successfully reproduce in the reservoir.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1. Annually stock palmetto bass at 15 fingerlings/acre and red drum at 200 fingerlings/acre. Determine if the controlling authority would be willing to purchase additional palmetto bass and red drum fingerlings from private suppliers for stocking.

ISSUE 2: The reservoir contains a poor largemouth bass population despite the special harvest regulation.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Conduct additional electrofishing survey in 2009 to gather more information to assess the
effects of the special regulation and possibly justify a proposal to revert the harvest
regulations back to the statewide standards.

SAMPLING SCHEDULE JUSTIFICATION:

Biennial electrofishing surveys (2009 and 2011) are necessary to gather information about the largemouth bass population response to the special harvest regulation. Biennial gill net surveys (2010 and 2012) are needed to monitor the populations of palmetto bass and red drum (Table 5).

7 LITERATURE CITED

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Table 1. Characteristics of Calaveras Reservoir, Texas.

Characteristic	Description		
Year constructed	1969		
Controlling authority	City Public Service Energy/San Antonio River		
	Authority		
County	Bexar		
Reservoir type	Tributary		
Shoreline Development Index	5.96		
Conductivity	1,512 umhos/cm		

Table 2. Fish harvest regulations for Calaveras Reservoir.

Species	Bag Limit	Minimum length limit (inches)
Catfish: channel and blue catfish, their hybrids and subspecies	25 (in any combination)	12
Catfish, flathead	5	18
Bass, palmetto	5	18
Bass, largemouth	5	18
Crappie: white and black crappie, their hybrids and subspecies	25 (in any combination)	10
Drum, red	3	20

Threadfin shad Blue catfish 1969 20,000 F0 1970 4,580 F1 1973 19,596 F0 Total Channel catfish 1969 90,000 F1 1970 41,580 F1 1972 30,342 F0 1972 30,342 F0 Total Fathead minnow 1985 10,590 Al Striped bass 1971 50,000 F1 1977 70,560 F1 1977 70,560 F1 1978 1980 35,095 F1 1980 35,095 F1 1980 35,095 F1 1980 35,095 F1 1980 1984 71,300 F6 1988 71,300 F6 1988 71,500 F6 1988 71,500 F6 1989 76,500 F6 1989 76,500 F6 1989 76,500 F6 1999 76,500 F6 1996 76,500 F6 1997 76 1998 76,500 F6 1997 76 1998 76,500 F6 1996 76,500 F6 1997 76 1997 76 1998 76,500 F6 1997 76 1997 76 1998 76 1999 78 1999 78 1999 78 1999 78 1999 78 1999 78 1999 78 1999 78 1999	FGL = 1-3 inches; and ADL = adults. Species	Year	Number	Size
1970	Threadfin shad			AD
1973 19,596 FG	Blue catfish	1969		FG
Total				FG
Channel catifish 1969 1970 41,580 1972 30,342 Total 161,922 Fathead minnow 1985 10,590 Al Striped bass 1971 50,000 FR 1977 70,560 FR 1977 70,560 FR 1977 70,560 FR 1979 35,995 FR 1980 35,022 FR 1982 35,600 FR 1984 71,300 FR 1984 71,300 FR 1985 35,261 FR 1986 68,980 FR 1987 104,500 FR 1988 71,340 FR 1988 71,340 FR 1988 71,340 FR 1989 76,500 FR 1991 52,170 FR 1992 30,341 FR 1994 52,550 FR 1995 61,400 FR 1995 61,400 FR 1997 51,789 FR 1999 751,789 FR 1990 751,780 FR 1970 751 752 Green sunfish x redear sunfish 7970 751 7970 7970 7970 7970 7970 7970 7971 7972 7970 7972 7972 7972 7972 7972 7972				FG
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2007 46,997 F0 Total 1,855,572 F0 Total 1,855,572 F0 Total 1,855,572 F0 Total 1,855,572 F0 Total 1,855,572 Total 1,855,5				
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1970 48,500 F0 1971 38,575 F0 1972		_		1 C
1970 48,500 F0 1971 38,575 F0 1972	Green sunfish x redear sunfish	1969	13,500	FG
1972 52,000_ FG		1970	48,500	FG
				FG
		1972 _ Total	52,000 152,575	FG

Table 3 continued. Stocking history of Calaveras Reservoir, Texas. Size categories are: FRY = <1 inch; FGL = 1-3 inches; and ADL = adults.

Species	Year	Number	Size
Largemouth bass	1969	36,500	FGL
	1973	4,400	FGL
	1987	10,707	FGL
	2003	32,653	FGL
	2005	34,502	FGL
	Total	121,762	
Florida largemouth bass	1974	80,950	FGL
	1978	79,919	FGL
	1988	22,636	FGL
	1989	13,000	FRY
	1990	22,500	FRY
	1991	62,754	FRY
	1992	177,000	FGL
	1993	172, 800	FGL
	1994	175,120	FGL
	1995	172,000	FGL FGL
	1998	175,937	FGL
	1999* 	100,910	FGL
	Total	1,255,526	
White crappie	1985	24,150	FGL
	1986	172,500	FGL
	1987	9,009	ADL
	2001	244	ADL
	2004 _	850	ADL
	Total	206,753	
Black crappie	1969	10,000	FGL
White <i>x</i> black crappie	1993	172,887	FGL
	1994	174,490	FGL
	1995	172,830	FGL
	1997	78,434	FGL
	Total	598,641	
Orangemouth corvina male x spotted sea trout female	1984	14,500	FGL
	1985	24,550	FGL
	Total	39,050	
Orangemouth corvina female x spotted sea trout male	1986	36,485	FGL
Orangemouth corvina	1986	766,831	FGL
	1987 _	13	ADL
	Total	766,844	
* Denotes genetically marked			

Table 3 continued. Stocking history of Calaveras Reservoir, Texas. Size categories are: FRY =<1 inch; FGL = 1-3 inches; and ADL = adults.

Species

Species	Year	Number	Size
Red drum	1984	27,575	FGL
	1987	738,000	FGL
	1989	2,700	FRY
	1991	787,255	FGL
	1993	385,026	FGL
	1994	318,078	FGL
	1995	349,693	FGL
	1996	349,253	FGL
	1997	305,159	FGL
	1998	309,762	FGL
	1999	433,350	FGL
	2000	437,626	FGL
	2001	455,813	FGL
	2002	166,844	FGL
	2003	607,487	FGL
	2004	635,302	FGL
	2006	2,309	ADL
	2006	109,338	FRY
	2006	582,245	FGL
	2007	600,122	FGL
	 Total	7,534,967	

Table 4. Survey of littoral zone and physical habitat types, Calaveras Reservoir, Texas, 2007. A linear shoreline distance (miles) was recorded for each habitat type found. Surface area (acres) and percent of reservoir surface area was determined for each type of aquatic vegetation found. Water level was at conservation pool level.

	Shoreline Distance		Surface Area		
Shoreline habitat type	Miles	Percent of	Acres	Percent of reservoir surface area	
		total			
Eroded bank	33.4	91			
Rip rap	1.1	3			
Rocks	2.2	6			
American lotus			0.96	0.03	
Brittle Naiad			0.16	0.01	
Bulrush			3.03	0.09	
Cattail			0.69	0.02	
Smartweed			< 0.01	<0.01	
Duck potato			<0.01	<0.01	
Hydrilla			0.25	0.01	

Gizzard Shad

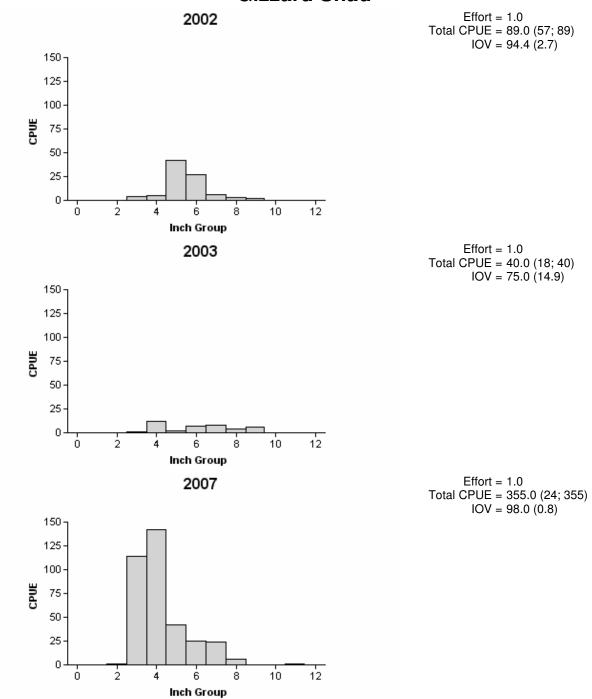


Figure 1. Number of gizzard shad caught per hour (CPUE) and population indices (RSE and N are in parentheses) for fall electrofishing surveys, Calaveras Reservoir, Texas, 2002, 2003, and 2007. RSE is used for CPUE values and SE is used for RSD and PSD values.

Bluegill Effort = 1.02002 Total CPUE = 346.0 (32; 346) Stock CPUE = 307.0 (36; 307) PSD = 0 (0.3)175 -150 125 100 75 50 25 Inch Group 2003 Effort = 1.0Total CPUE = 501.0 (17; 501) Stock CPUE = 246.0 (28; 246) PSD = 5 (2.2)175 150 125 100 75 50 25 0 ż Ó 1 ġ. 4 5 6 8 Inch Group 2007 Effort = 1.0Total CPUE = 211.0 (29; 211) Stock CPUE = 182.0 (29; 182) PSD = 8 (2)175-150 125 100 75 50 25 0

Figure 2. Number of bluegill caught per hour (CPUE) and population indices (RSE and N are in parentheses) for fall electrofishing surveys, Calaveras Reservoir, Texas, 2002, 2003, and 2007. RSE is used for CPUE values and SE is used for PSD values.

Inch Group

Blue Catfish 2006 Effort = 5.0Total CPUE = 1.8 (51; 9) Stock CPUE = 1.6 (51; 8) PSD = 50 (26.2)-130 2. CPUE 90 80 10 15 20 25 30 Inch Group 2007 Effort = 5.0Total CPUE = 3.2 (33; 16) Stock CPUE = 3.2 (33; 16) PSD = 38 (18.8)130 2 110 100 80 30 10 15 20 25 0 5 Inch Group Effort = 5.02008 Total CPUE = 8.0 (17; 40) Stock CPUE = 7.6 (17; 38) PSD = 37 (8.4)2 130 CPUE 0 5 10 30 15 Inch Group

Figure 3. Number of blue catfish caught per net night (CPUE, bars) mean relative weight (diamonds) and population indices (RSE and N are in parentheses) for spring gill net surveys, Calaveras Reservoir, Texas, 2006, 2007, and 2008. RSE is used for CPUE values and SE is used for PSD values.

Channel Catfish

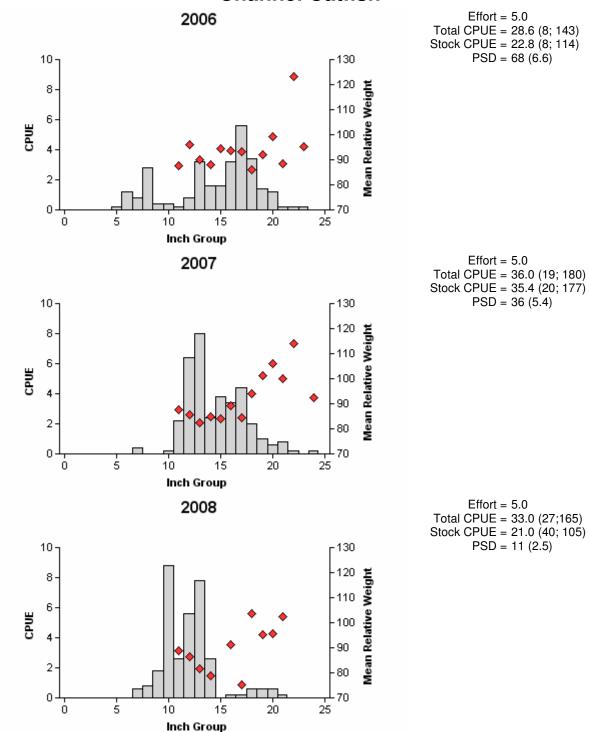


Figure 4. Number of channel catfish caught per net night (CPUE, bars) mean relative weight (diamonds) and population indices (RSE and N are in parentheses) for spring gill net surveys, Calaveras Reservoir, Texas, 2006, 2007, and 2008. RSE is used for CPUE values and SE is used for PSD values.

Palmetto Bass

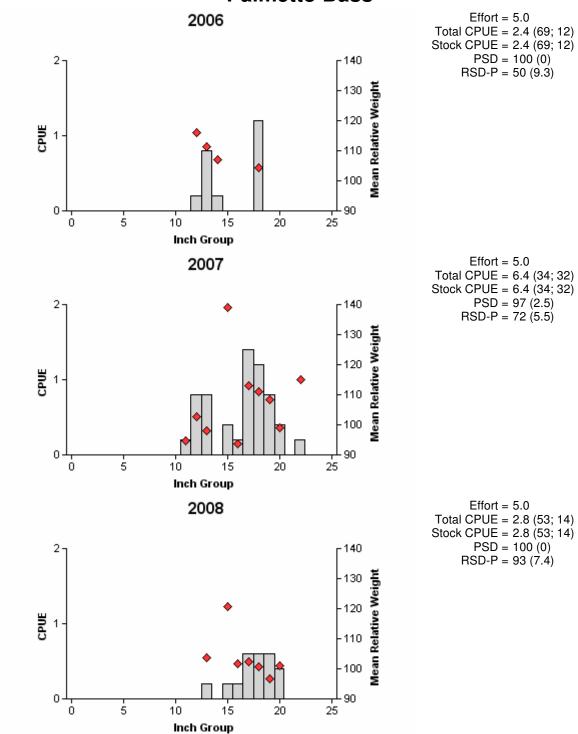
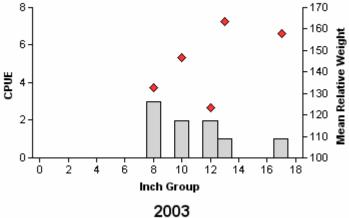
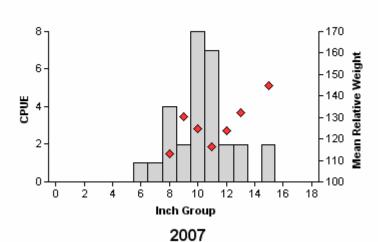


Figure 5. Number of palmetto bass caught per net night (CPUE, bars) mean relative weight (diamonds) and population indices (RSE and N are in parentheses) for spring gill net surveys, Calaveras Reservoir, Texas, 2006, 2007, and 2008. RSE is used for CPUE values and SE is used for RSD and PSD values.

Largemouth Bass 2002 Effort = 1.0 Total CPUE = 9.0 (59; 9) Stock CPUE = 9.0 (59; 9) PSD = 44 (13.9) PSD = 44 (13.9) RSD-P = 11 (6.4)



Effort = 1.0 Total CPUE = 29.0 (35;29) Stock CPUE = 27.0 (35; 27) PSD = 22 (10.8) RSD-P = 7 (7.3)



Effort = 1.0 Total CPUE = 39.0 (53; 39) Stock CPUE = 32.0 (57; 32) PSD = 69 (18.8) RSD-P = 25 (4.5)

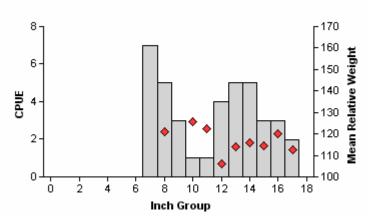
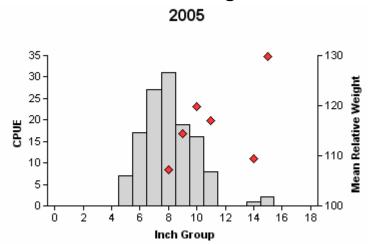


Figure 6. Number of largemouth bass caught per hour (CPUE, bars) mean relative weight (diamonds) and population indices (RSE and N are in parentheses) for fall electrofishing surveys, Calaveras Reservoir, Texas, 2002, 2003, and 2007. RSE is used for CPUE values and SE is used for RSD and PSD values.

Largemouth Bass



Effort = 1.0 Total CPUE = 128.0 (30; 128) Stock CPUE = 77.0 (35;77) PSD = 4 (1.8) RSD-P = 3 (1.4)

Figure 7. Number of largemouth bass caught per hour (CPUE, bars) mean relative weight (diamonds) and population indices (RSE and N are in parentheses) for fall bass only electrofishing surveys, Calaveras Reservoir, Texas, 2005. RSE is used for CPUE values and SE is used for RSD and PSD values.

Table 6. Results of genetic analyses of age-0 largemouth bass collected by electrofishing during fall from Calaveras Reservoir, Texas. Hybrid fish are those with both Florida largemouth bass (FLMB) and northern largemouth bass (NLMB) genes. Genetic analysis procedures changed from the electrophoresis method to the micro satellite DNA method in 2007. Thus, comparisons of genotype proportions across years are not valid. Comparisons of percent FLMB alleles are valid across years. Both FLMB and NLMB bass have been stocked in the reservoir.

	-	N	Number of fish by geno	_		
Year	Sample size	FLMB	Hybrid	NLMB	% FLMB alleles	% FLMB genotype
1998	30	29	1	0	99.2	96.7
1999	64	36	28	0	85.9	56.3
2001	23	20	3	0	93.5	87.0
2003	229	129	38	62	66.7	55.2
2007	30	12	18	0	90.7	40.0

Red Drum

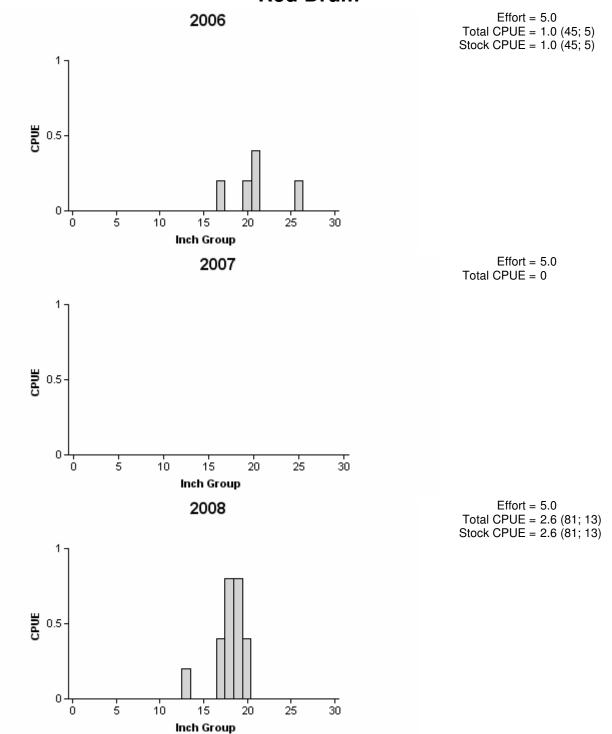
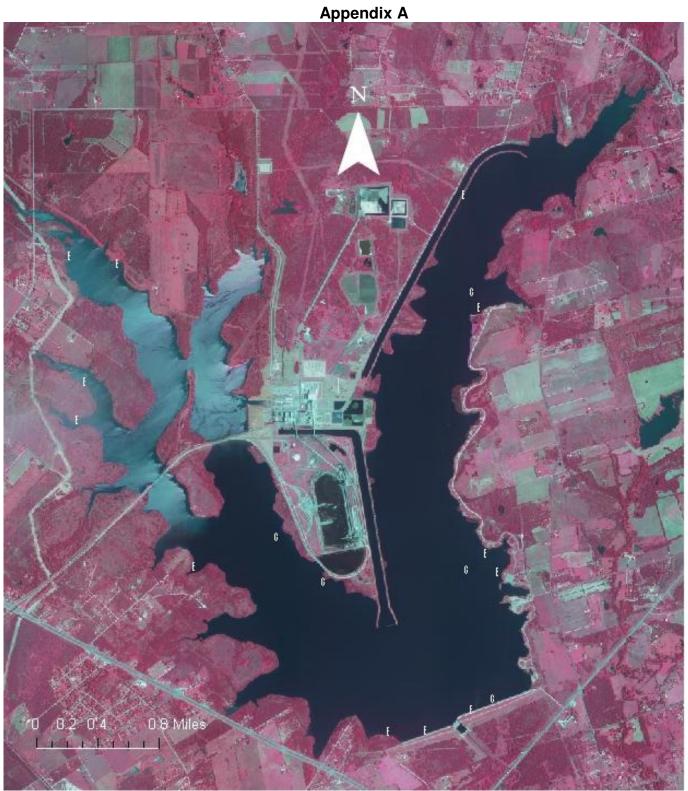


Figure 8. Number of red drum caught per net night (CPUE, bars) mean relative weight (diamonds) for spring gill net surveys, Calaveras Reservoir, Texas, 2006, 2007, and 2008. RSE and N are in parentheses.

21 Table 6. Proposed sampling schedule for Calaveras Reservoir, Texas. Gill netting surveys are conducted in the spring, while electrofishing and trap netting surveys are conducted in the fall. Standard survey denoted by S and additional survey denoted by A.

Survey Year	Electrofishing	Gill Net	Creel Survey	Report
Fall 2008-Spring 2009				
Fall 2009-Spring 2010	Α	Α		
Fall 2010-Spring 2011				
Fall 2011-Spring 2012	S	S	S	S



Location of gill net (G) and electrofishing (E) sampling sites at Calaveras Reservoir, Texas, 2007-2008. Areal photography is from the 2006 survey by the Water Development Board available from the Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS) website.

23 Appendix B

Number (N) and catch rate (CPUE) of all target species collected from all gear types from Calaveras Reservoir, Texas, 2007-2008.

Species	Gill N	Vetting	Electrofishing	
Opecies	N	CPUE	N	CPUE
Gizzard shad			355	355.0
Threadfin shad			221	221.0
Blue catfish	40	8.0		
Channel catfish	165	33.0		
Palmetto bass	14	2.8		
Bluegill			211	211.0
Redear sunfish			13	13.0
Largemouth bass			39	39.0
Red drum	13	2.6		