

471

Memorandum

To : Fisheries Management, Region 5

Date : May 16, 1986

From : Department of Fish and Game - Kimberly Nicol

Subject: Desert Pupfish Survey, Salt Creek, Riverside County

A survey to determine if desert pupfish still occurred in the Salt Creek drainage, Riverside County, was conducted April 29 - May 1, 1986.

Twenty minnow traps baited with cat food were set overnight along Salt Creek from the Hwy. 111 crossing to the mining railroad trestle (Figure 1). Traps were set in depths 10-120 cm. Water temperature ranged from 17 to 33°C, and conductivity ranged from 3,400 - 34,000 umhos.

Seventy pupfish were caught. All pupfish were caught in a 250 m stretch of the creek between the powerline road and the mining railroad trestle, where the creek widens and forms pools with low flows. In these areas algae and detritus were abundant. Other areas in this section, besides where the pupfish were caught, appeared to provide good pupfish habitat but were too shallow to set traps.

Other species caught were mosquitofish (20), sailfin mollies (7), crayfish (27), and freshwater shrimp (8).

Other areas along the creek were not surveyed because an abundant growth of cattails and salt cedar made it impossible to get to the water in the creek.

I would like to thank Darlene McGriff, Patty Young, and Glenn Black of Fish and Game, and Faye Winters from BLM for their assistance in conducting these surveys.

Kimberly Nicol
Kimberly Nicol
Fishery Biologist
Region 5

Attachment

cc: G. Black
D. McGriff
C. Shaw
F. Winters, BLM
R. Bransfield, FWS

KN:dr

07

08

50'

09

Rancho Dos Palmas

Seep

10

16

15

Area surveyed

Rupfish trap

22

BR-142

170

SOUTHERN

28

27

Salt

