

PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Texas Project Number: F-5-R-21

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Project Title: Region I

Project Section: Inventory

As Required By

Study Title: Pollution Studies

Contract Period: From March 1, 1973 To February 28, 1974

FEDERAL AID IN FISHERIES RESTORATION ACT

Program Narrative Objective No.:

Objective: To determine the source and nature of pollution.

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I. Segment Objective:

A. To investigate instances of pollution affecting specific fish populations.

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Board when the project was approved.

B. Specifically, to determine the extent of damage to fish populations.

REGION I-B FISHERIES STUDIES

tion, to attempt to identify the nature and extent of violations and negligence in proper activities.

Objective 2: Pollution Studies

II.

Three prior instances of pollution and/or fish kills were detected and investigated in Fisheries Region I-B during this segment.

Project Leader: Billy J. Follis

A small fish kill was reported in the Colorado River in the Green County area.

Assistant Project Leader: David J. Morris

were found among several species of fish. Many individuals of these two species and other native fish species were not affected. This small die-off appeared to have been caused by natural low water conditions and oxygen depletion.

A minor fish kill occurred in July on the Colorado River in northeastern Cole County. All species present were affected for about 5 miles of the shallow portion of the river. High chlorides and low dissolved oxygen were the only factors reported.

Clayton T. Garrison

Executive Director

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Austin, Texas

A few dead fish were reported on the Colorado River just above Lake 2. The fish were found in a small, shallow, low flow area. The fish were found only a few feet from the shore. It was concluded that these fish had died in stagnant pools of the river and then were washed down-river by run-off from a localized rain.

Lonnie J. Peters  
Chief, Inland Fisheries

Robert J. Kemp, Director  
Fish and Wildlife Division

March 11, 1974

PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Texas Project Number: F-5-R-21

Project Title: Region I-B Fisheries Studies

Project Section: Inventory

Study Title: Pollution Studies

Contract Period: From March 1, 1973 To February 28, 1974

Program Narrative Objective No.: 2

Objective: To determine the source and nature of pollution.

I. Segment Objective:

- A. To investigate instances of pollution affecting specific fish populations and to report findings to the Texas Water Quality Board when remedial action is needed.
- B. Specifically, to determine the extent of damage to fish populations, to trace the source of pollution, to attempt to determine the nature of the pollutant, and to report instances of violation and negligence to proper authorities.

II. Summary of Progress:

Three minor instances of pollution and/or fish kills were detected and investigated in Fisheries Region I-B during this segment.

A small fish kill was reported on the North Concho River in Tom Green County in May, 1973. Only a few dead gizzard shad and river carpsucker were found along about one-quarter mile of the river. Many individuals of these two species and other native fish present were not affected. This small die-off appeared to have been caused by natural low water conditions and oxygen depletion.

A minor fish kill occurred in May on the Colorado River in northwestern Coke County. All species present were affected for about 8 miles of this shallow portion of the river. High chlorides and low dissolved oxygen were the only lethal agents detected.

A few dead fish were reported by fishermen in the Colorado River just above Lake Spence in July. Species mentioned included carpsucker, carp, largemouth bass, and catfish. Investigation found only a few fish of the above species in a decomposing state. It was concluded that these fish died in stagnant pools of the river and then were washed down-river by run-off from a localized rain.

Robert J. Kemp, Director  
Fish and Wildlife Division

Donald J. Peters  
Chief, Fish and Wildlife Division

March 11, 1974

In July, 1973 an oil pipeline belonging to Mobil Oil Company broke, causing a major oil spill into the Colorado River in Mitchell County. About 3 miles of the river were affected, totally destroying the fish population. However, in this area the river supports an insignificant sport fish population. Fishes here were mainly shad, carpsuckers and minnows. The concerned authorities notified included The Environmental Protection Agency, Texas Water Quality Board, Railroad Commission, Colorado River Municipal Water District, and responsible personnel of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The Mobil Oil Company constructed 3 temporary earthen dams and used "oil fences" and hay to contain the crude oil. Southerly winds and slack flow of the river aided containment and recovery efforts of oil. Within 3 days most of the crude oil (4,500 barrels) had been recovered and the residue burned off. Charges were not filed by any agency.

III. Significant Deviation:

Population sampling with nets and seines was not necessary in establishing the damage to fish populations during investigations of fish kills in Region I-B this segment. The affected waters were very shallow and clear and supported no important fisheries or endangered species; therefore, only visual observations were made.

IV. Conclusions, Evaluations and Recommendations:

All but one pollution report to this project was considered minor since no important fisheries or endangered species were affected. A major oil spill into the Colorado River in Mitchell County occurred, but most of the oil was recovered within three days. No major damage to sport fish populations was found because the fish populations in this area were comprised mainly of rough fishes.

V. Prepared by: Billy J. Follis  
Project Leader

Date: March 11, 1974

Leo Lewis  
Regional Director, Inland Fisheries  
Region I

Approved by: David L. Pritchard  
Dingell-Johnson Coordinator

