

EVALUATION OF THERMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR JUNE SUCKER PROPAGATION

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A laboratory study was conducted to monitor June sucker (*Chasmistes liorus*) performance when reared at an average of approximately 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 30 °C for 16 weeks. The June sucker is an endangered fish native to Utah Lake, UT. A meeting was held in November, 2004 to discuss and prioritize June sucker propagation issues. Rearing temperature was identified as a key component necessary for the design of a new June sucker hatchery and for achieving the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program supplementation goal of 350,000 8-in fish annually. In this study weight gain, mortality, and feed efficiency were affected by water temperature with 21.9 °C being the optimum for June sucker growth using quadratic regression analysis. The acclimated chronic exposure water temperature (50% survival for 60 days) exceeded 27.9 °C. Deformities did increase during this study but did not appear to be temperature related. Continued research is needed on other propagation issues such as diets for different life stages, deformities, and spawning and reproductive physiology requirements. This data may be applicable for the propagation and habitat requirements of other *Chasmistes* spp.