

Meeting summary for: Brazos River Shiners and other Prairie Fishes

May 6, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Thank you to everyone who presented at and attended this meeting. Below you will find the slide decks for the presentations and a summary of the discussion. The meeting recording will be posted as soon as it is available.

I. Welcome: Natural Resources program, Texas Comptroller's Office

II. Presentations:

a) [Slide deck](#) for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the state of federally funded research and regulation for the Brazos River shiners

b) [Slide deck](#) for Kevin Mayes, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Aquatic Biologist, on the state of state-funded research and regulations for Smalleye Shiner and Sharpnose Shiner and other prairie fishes

III. Discussion items:

Below is a summary of the discussion.

- a) What are the long-term research priorities and questions?
 - What are the specific habitat needs of the sharpnose and smalleye shiners, especially regarding water quality and quantity?
 - What can the existing populations tell us about what is needed to reestablish populations downstream?
 - What can be done to help ensure the long-term viability of the upstream population and provide redundancy?
 - How are the fish doing? Not just the shiners, but the entire fish community?
 - What are the effects of existing conservation measures, such as salt cedar treatment?
 - How are the upper reaches of reservoirs used, especially during droughts?
 - What is the likelihood of them surviving the foreseeable future?

- b) What is the best way to address these priorities and questions?
 - Long-term monitoring could directly address or help with most of these issues and questions. This comes with the advantage of building off the existing dataset.
 - Repatriating fish into river reaches where they no longer exist is not an efficient way to reestablish populations or understand why those populations were extirpated in the first place.

- There is a need for significant coordination given all ongoing and overlapping work and data needs and resources of the diverse stakeholders.

c) What are the next steps — tentative timeline:

- June: Texas Comptroller's office prepares a call for proposals based on questions from this summary and subsequent feedback.
- July: Comptroller issues the call for proposals due in September.
- October: Contract Negotiations
- November: Contract awarded
- January 2021: Research begins