OPERATION OF THE CONOW.

FISH COLLECTION FACILITY

SPRING OF 1980

Muddy Run Ecological Labora Post Office Box 10 Drumore, Pennsylvania 175

Prepared For
Philadelphia Electric Company

Fish Facility Operation Report

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INTRODUCTION

The Conowingo Dam Fish Collection Facility (hereafter Fish Trap) has been operated since 1972 as part of a cooperative state, private, and federal effort to restore American shad to the Susquehanna River. Early goals of trap operation were to determine the number of American shad that could be collected from the Fish Trap location and to transport as many shad as possible upriver. The current goal is to monitor anadromous fish populations below Conowingo Dam. Operation of the fish trap is under the guidance of the Susquehanna River Anadromous Fish Restoration Cooperative and has been funded by Philadelphia Electric Company. Results of trap operation from 1972 to 1979 were summarized by McGhan (1977, 1978) and RMC (1979).

Objectives of the 1980 operation were to (1) monitor relative abundance of <u>Alosa</u> species in the Conowingo Dam tailrace, (2) monitor species composition of fish in Conowingo Dam tailrace, (3) obtain scale samples from selected anadromous fish species, and (4) collect American shad for radio tagging.

METHODS

Conowingo Dam is located on the Susquehanna River approximately 10 mi upriver of the confluence with Chesapeake Bay. The fish trap (Figure 1) is at the base of the Dam on the west side of the tailrace adjacent to the power house. Attraction water for the trap is provided by two small turbines (House Units). Discharge from the trap is controlled by flow from these turbines and by adjustable weir gates. Trap design has been described by Kotkas and Robbins (1976) and in the Operation and Maintenance Manual (Anon. 1972).

Trap operation in 1980 was scheduled to begin on 15 April, but high river flows (peak of 144,300 cfs on 16 April) delayed installation of trap motors. Operation began on 23 April but problems with the crowder gate occurred. Operation resumed on 25 April and continued daily through 29 April

in an effort to determine if substantial numbers of alosids were present in the tailrace. Normal operation (every third day) began on 2 May and continued through 13 June. Additional days of operation occurred following any day when 5 or more American shad were collected.

The trap was usually fished one half hour before sunrise to noon.

Additional operation occurred whenever one or more shad were taken between 1100-1200 hr. On those days operation continued until no shad were collected for one hour. The trap was also operated at night during 8-9 May in a special effort to collect American shad for radio tracking.

Trap operation was similar to that described in the Operation and Maintenance Manual (Anon. 1972). Fishing time (i.e., time crowder gates were open ranged from 1 to 60 minutes depending upon abundance of fishes; the more fish, the shorter the time. Thirty minute fishing times were most frequently used. An intermediate crowder gate position (12-in. opening) was used throughout the season. The crowder doors were usually closed for 10 to 15 minutes between fishing periods, depending upon abundance of fishes and the time required to process catches.

Attraction velocity and flow were maintained at approximately 6.0 fps and 265 cfs by regulating House Unit discharge and weir gate position.

Velocities were checked with a General Oceanics Model 2030 digital flow meter on 3 and 4 June (Table 1). Observed velocities and elevation differentials between the tailrace and the holding channel were occasistent with results from previous years (Robbins, 1972).

Based on an agreement with the State of Maryland, Susquehanna Electric Company continuously released at least 5,000 cfs from Conowingo Dam from 23 April through 1 June. When the fish trap operated, this flow was usually discharged via the turbine (Unit No. 2) adjacent to the trap in an effort to attract fish to the west side of the tailrace.

Morpholine was released from the fish trap during a 24-hour period every sixth day starting 11 May as indicated in Table 3 and Figure 3. This chemical was used by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission to imprint larval shad reared at their Van Dyke Hatchery (Thompsontown, Pa) and stocked in Susquehanna River tributaries. It was hoped that adults resulting from these introductions would be attracted to the fish trap by morpholine release.

Fishes were processed as described by McGhan (1977). Catches were sorted in a $1.8 \times 3.7 \times 1.2$ m tank supplied with running river water. Most catches were counted or subsampled and released to the tailrace. When mortalities due to dissolved oxygen deficiency were likely, the number of fish of each species was estimated and the catch was released.

American shad were dip netted from the sorting tank into a similar tank supplied with running river water. Healthy, actively swimming fish were either equipped with radio tags, fin clipped (left pelvic fin), or tagged with floy anchor tags. Tagged fish were observed for a short time to determine condition, and healthy individuals were released into the tailrace via a water filled pipe or box. Sex, length and spawning condition were determined and scale samples were taken when possible. Weight was taken only for the few individuals which died prior to release.

Length, weight, sex and scale samples were also taken from blueback herring, alewife, striped bass, and striped bass x white bass hybrid. Common names of fishes (Bailey et al. 1970) are used throughout the text and tables. A list of common and scientific names is given in Table 2.

River flow and temperature at the trap during trap operation are summarized in Figure 2. Flow ranged from 17,800 to 51,000 cfs. It fluctuated among days but generally decreased from April through June. Temperature ranged from 56.0 to 73.5 F and increased steadily through the season.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In 30 days of fish trap operation, 372,380 fish representing 11 families and 43 species were caught in 403 lifts with a total fishing time of 117 hours (Table 3). Predominate species were gizzard shad (74.1%), channel catfish (10.5%), white perch (7.2%), carp (2.4%), and walleye (1.1%). Anadromous clupeids (alewife, blueback herring, American shad, and hickory shad) comprised 0.2% of the total catch. No American shad and relatively few resident fishes were collected during the one night time effort (Table 3) on 8-9 May 1980.

The clupeid catch has steadily declined since 1973 when anadromous clupeids comprised 35.1% of the total. In 1980, there was no substantial run of blueback herring and the collection of herring per lift never exceeded 60. The total catch of alewife (9) was the same as in 1979. This is the third consecutive year that fewer than 10 alewife were captured. This catch has declined from 143,880 alewife in 1973. One hickory shad was present in the 1980 catch. This was the first time it has been taken in the facility since 1975.

A total of 139 American shad was collected between 23 April and 13 June (Table 3, Figure 3). Four of these had been previously captured and marked at the trap. One fish radio tagged on 11 May was recaptured on 7 June. A second fish was floy tagged on 11 May and recaptured on 10 June. The third fish was floy tagged on 31 May and recaptured on 3 and 7 June. Twelve shad were successfully radio tagged and released.

Two peaks in catch of American shad occurred (Figure 3). The first occurred in late April at water temperatures of 58 to 59 F and flows of 37,800 to 42,000 cfs. The second peak occurred in late May and early June at water temperatures of 67 to 73.5 F and flows of 17,800 to 32,300 cfs. A similar pattern of shad catch was reported in previous years.

Life history data and scale samples were obtained from 132 American shad, 201 blueback herring, 5 alewife, 87 striped bass, and 216 striped bass x white bass hybrids.

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Table 1. Summary of hydraulic measurements made at the Conowingo Dam Fish Collection Facility, 3-4 June 1980.

	Velocities (ft/s)							
Discharge (cfs)	Weir Gate Setting (ft)	Holding Channel	Weir Gate 1	Weir Gate 2	Difference in Elevation (ft) Between Tailrace and Holding Channel			
265	5.1	1	6–7	5–6	1.2-1.5			
360	4.5	2	8	8	2.5			

Table 2. List of scientific and common names of fishes collected in the Conowingo Dam Fish Collection Facility, 1980 (according to Bailey, et al., 1970).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
Family - Petromyzontidae	Lampreys	Family - Ictaluridae	Freshvater catfishes
Petronyzon marinus	Sea lamprey	Ictalurus catus	White catfish
		Ictalurus natalis	Yellow bullhead
Family - Anguillidae	Freshwater eels	Ictalurus nebulosus	Brown bullhead
Anguilla rostrata	American eel	Ictalurus punctatus	Channel catfish
Family - Clupeidae	Herrings	Family - Percichthyidae	Temperature basses
Alosa aestivalis	Blueback herring	Morone americana	White perch
Alosa mediocris	Hickory shad	Morone saxatilis	Striped bass
Alosa pseudoharengus	Alewife	M. saxatilis x M. chrysops	Striped bass x white ba
Alosa sapidissima	American shad		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Brevoortia tyrannus	Atlantic menhaden	Family - Centrarchidae	Sunfishes
Dorosoma cepedianum	. Gizzard shad	Ambloplites rupestris	Rock bass
		Lepomis auritus	Redbreast sunfish
Family - Salmonidae	Trouts	Lepomis cyanellus	Green sunfish
Salmo gairdneri	Rainbow trout	Lepomis gibbosus	Pumpkinseed
Salmo trutta	. Brown trout	Lepomis macrochirus	Bluegill
Salvelinus fontinalis	Brook trout	Micropterus dolomieui	Smallmouth bass
S. fentinalis x S. namayeush	Splake Splake	Micropterus salmoides	Largemouth bass
		Pomoxis annularis	 White crappie
Family - Esocidae	Pikes	Pomoxis nigromaculatus	Black crappie
Esox lucius	Northern pike		••
Esox masquinongy	Muskellunge	Family - Percidae	Perches
E. masquinengy x E. lucius	Tiger muskie	Perca flavescens	Yellow perch
	•	Stizostedion vitreum	Walleye
Family - Cyprinidae	Minnows and carps .		•
Cyprinus carpio	Carp	•	
Nocomis micropogon	River chub		
Noterigonus crysoleucas	Golden shiner		
Notropis amoenus	Comely shiner		
Notropis hudsonius	Spottail shiner		•
Notropis spilopterus	Spotfin shiner	•	
Family - Catostomidae	Suckers		
Carpiodes cyprinus	Ouillback		
Catostomus commersoni	White sucker	•	
Hypentelium nigricans	Northern hog sucker		
Moxostoma macrolepidotum	Shorthead redhorse		

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	23	(26	-1				•
TABLE 3 .	0.	r·		ン・	zð	G		
NUMBERS OF FISH TAKEN DAILY CONDWINSO DAM FISH COLLECT!		- 23 6971	To 12 to NE 1	030.	_	21	- w	55
COMMINSO DAY PISH COLLECTI	INT PACIELLY	- 25 APAIL	10 13 30%	700			>	
DATE	04/23/30	04/25/30	04/26/80	04/27/30	04/28/80	04/29/80	05/32/80	05/05/80
NO. LIFTS	9	16	12	16	10	11	11	13
FIPST LIFT	545	515	525	520	520	522	505	443 1158
LAST LIFT	932	1405	1153 6.55	1540 10.33	1140 6•33	1158 6.60	1151 6:77	7.17
CPERATING TIME (HRS)	3.78 1.67	£.83 5.0≎	3.52	3.93	3.42	4.35	4.03	4 • 1d
FISHING TIME (HAS) AVE BIVES FLOW (KCFS)	51.0	42.0	37.9	37 . 8	37.5	43.3	90.2	57.9
AVE WATER TEMP. (F)	5ù.0	50.0	59.0	59.0	58.0	67.9	57.0	59.0
HORPHOLINE USED?	סא	NO	Nű	NO	40 ·	' YES	כיא	YE5
AHERICE + EEL	<u>a</u>	2	10		- 5	-	13	-
BLUEBACK MEKKING MICKORY SHAU			•		Ŧ			
ALENIE .	888 .	1	1	+	ž	-	2	2
ARFRICA : SHAD		3		22	_	•		•
SIZZANG SHAD	7,336	5,440	6+538	26,382	5,565	2,916	1,822	0,434
ATLANTIC MENHADEN		-	-	· -	-	•	-	enalise Datie
RAILED W TROUT			-	504000	vr	1		
ERGAN TROUT	***	2	9	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
EROUK TROUT	2	-	-,	-	<u>,</u>	2		
NUMBERN PIKE			7	, -	5	-	-	3
MUSKELLUVUE CARP	18	233	5	34	258	10	20	305
AIVER CHUS	*-		, . <u>-</u>	_		· 1	-	-
GULDEN SHINER	-	_	_	1	-	•	-	-
CUTELY SHINER	-	-	-	-	-	-	- '	· •
SPOITAIL SHINGR	•	25	, -	63	-	-	-	-
SPOTFIN SHINER	-	-		_	.	-	-	70
DUILLEAUK	4	274	12	30	30	. 12	**	70
WHITE SUCKER	22	195	51	.157	104	- 65 3	30	64 -
NUPTHERA HOG SUCKER SHOKTHERA KEDHOKSE	-	174	+0	ol	3 3	35	14	65
WHITE CATFISH	-	1	-		-			-
YELLOW BULLHEAD	-	1	1	_	-	- '	-	· •
BROWN BULLHEAD	-	1	2		-	4	-	
CHANNEL CATFISH	256	335	249	209	108	735	571	2,520
KATTE PERCH	10	157	553	56	25	60	19	5.6
STRIPED BASS	*****	•	•	•	•	_	_	_
POCK BASS	. -		-	. 1	.		_	
PLODELAST SUNFISH	-		i .	_	_	, ,	٠. ـــ	-
GREEN SUNFISH PUMPKINGEED	-		_	_		_	• -	· -
FLUEGILL	-	-	_	-	_	-	-	• -
STALLMOUTH EASS	2	9	. 2	4	15	3	-	2?
LAPUCHOUTH EASS	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
MHITE CKAPPIE	-	1	-	-	-	. -	-	- '
BLACK CRAFFIE	-	-	· . 	-	-	-	-	
MELLOW PEKCH	. -	1	20		-	-		er et er eri "T eele
MALLEYE	38	86	53	105	43	71	and the second of	50
SEA LAMPRET	an in the second	- 9	- -	-		····	_	-
STRIPED BASS X WHITE BASS		3	4	i		-	7	•
TISER YUSKIE	<u> </u>	,	• ~	1 •	-			-
SPLAKE		=======	======		=======================================	======	*****	*****
	7,705	7,009	7,594	27+152	6.209	3.927	2+594	12+613

A. C.	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14
TABLE 3 (CONT.)	38	37	41	42	44	47	SI	53
DATE NO. LIFTS FIRST LIFT LAST LIFT COPEMATING TIME (HAS) FISHING TIME (HAS) AVE RIVER FLOW (KCFS)	05/08/80 15 440 1125 6.75 2.07	C5/09/30 11 2240 420 5.67 3.53	05/11/20 13 443 1305 8-37 4-00 33+5	05/12/80 14 445 1145 7.02 4.50 30*9	05/14/80 14 450 1150 7.00 3.17 57.2	05/17/80 11 435 1138 7.05 3.25	05/20/80 14 420 1242 3.37 3.53	05/23/40 14 436 1155 7.32 3.75 40.0
AVE WATER TEMP. (F) YURPHULING USED?	54 ∙ 8 \0	64.0 NO	64*0 YES	64-5 NG	63.0 VC	65.0 YES '	65.5 NC -	55.0 YES
AMERICAN EEL SLUEBACK HERRING MICKSUT SHAD	-	1 1		20	14 1	15	15 1	1
ALENTFE AFERICAN SHAD GIZZAKU SHAJ ATLANTIC MENHADEN	18,060	- 2975 -	19,704 -	- 12•408 -	15+300 -	9,245	. 4 13,813	5 11•433 -
RAINSOW TROOT BROWN TROOT BROOK TROOT NUTTHERN PIKE	zo -		- 2 -	24 - -	11 ·		19 -	<u>.</u>
MUSKELLUNGE CARP RIVER CHUB GOLDEN SHIVER	432	2	3 - - 1	76 -	155	508 -	336	554 -
COTELY SHINER SHOTTAIL SHINER SHOTTAIN SHINER	- - -	= = =	<u>.</u> 	<u>.</u> 	 		-	- -
CUILLBACK WHITE SUCKER NURTHERN HOG SUCKER SHORTHEAD RECHORSE	132 30 - 53	. 5 - 2	16 10 - 4	- 8 - 24	32 2 8 20	18 69 - 67	32 8 - 116	55 23 ~ 57
MHITE CATFISH YELLOW BULLHEAD PROWN BULLHEAD CHANNEL CATFISH	- - - 4,780	2 - - 5,057	8 - 24 1,827	20 - 26 920	10 - 6 774	16 - 14 817	136 - 118 716	4 1 13 1,360
NHITE PLACH STRIPED BASS RUCK BASS REDEREAST SUMFISH	5,240	189	3,287	1.228	902 	1,090	598 	875 5 - 20
GREEN SUMFISH PUMPKINSEED FLUEGILL	- - -		1	- -	. 15 10	43 - - 48	52	20
STALLMOUTH DASS LARGEMOUTH DASS HHITE CRAPPIE ELACK CRAPPIE	103 4 - -	10 - - -	1 i 1	35 - - -	50 -	21 - - 4	2 1 -	13 - -
YELLON PIRCH MALLEYE SIA LAMPREY STRIPED BASS X WHITE BASS	171	56 1	4 42 -	164	- 35 -	85 -	218	138
TISER MUSKIE SPLAKE	-		-	-	- - -	2	. 1	1 -
	29,043	8,305	24,977	14,915	17,359	12,073	16,245	14,633

	17	18	19	70	51	27	23	24
TABLE 3 (CONT.)	84	56	57	59	60	61	62	63
DATE NO. LIFTS FIRST LIFT LAST LIFT OPERATING TIME (HRS) FISHING TIME (HRS) AVE RIVER FLOM (KCFS) AVE MATER TEMP. (F) MORPHOLING USEO?	95/24/80 14 440 1153 7-22 4-00 37-8 65-0 NO	05/26/50 17 433 1336 9.05 4.67 32.3 67.0	05/27/80 11 445 1148 7.05 3.83 26.6 68.0 NO	05/29/80 10 445 1152 7-12 2-47 25-1 69-3 YES	05/30/80 17 436 1235 8-10 3-92 20-8 70-0	05/31/80 11 520 1253 7.55 3.42 27.9 71.5	06/01/30 11 433 1220 7.79 5.33 19.8 75.0	G6/92/50 10 430 1128 6.97 4.58 18.2 79.0
			**************************************	163	2000 000	**************************************	************	#
AMERICA. EFL BLUEBACK HERRING HICKURY SHAU	17 -	13 57	13 10 ·	12	52	23 1 -	16 25 . –	31 1 -
ALERIFE AMERICA, SHAD GIZZAND SHAD GATLANTIC MENHADEN	10+675	19 15•848	2+549 -	11.778	8 8+042 -	7.746	. 19 3.633	733
RAÍNSOM TROUT SZOWN TROUT SKOUK TROUT	16	- -		stated who dispersions to provide the state of the state		47	5 2 -	14
NUPTHER FRIKE MUSKELLUNGE CARP	1 10	3 44	1 442	1 2,095	- 2+182	1 124	2 34	1 230
RIVER CHUS GOLDEN SHINER COMBLY SHINER SPOTTAIL SHINER		- - -	7 900 501	 8 20	- - -	60 40	1	200
SPOIFIN SHINER SPOIFIN SHINER	- 8	- 5 73	303 35	420 120	274 25	358 17	90 20 4	200 314 2
NOZTHORN HOG SUCKER CHORTHEAD RECHORSE WHITE CATEISH	23	96 16	- 47 53	216 21	. 85 66	53 15	2 7 7	2 19
YELEU, BULCHEAD PADAN ROLLHEAD CHANNEL GATFISH	10 252	5 1,519	113 694 423	2+156 574	110 2,456 1,744	97 626 1•550	6 403	29 394 1•295
WHITE PERCH STRIPLD BASS RÜCH BASS REDUREAST SUNFISH	422 ## 4 24	1:175 16 101	24 156	24 103	1.799 3 3 97	16 105	643 - 111	2 72
SKEER SUMPISH PUMPKINSEED BEUEGIEL	- ,	. - 45 73	15 66 112	5 90	10	33 44	11 43 .	25 52
SMALLMOUTH BASS LARDE 100TH BASS / FMHITE CHAPPIE	· 4 -	51 4	3 5 3	53 - 4	3	10 1 12	36 12	2 2 2
SEACK CHAPPIE YELLOW PARCH HALLEYE HALLEYE	94	8 183	1 49 161	29 290	44 387	46 204	65 295	4 44 1=0
SEA LAMPREY STRIPED BASS X WHITE BASS TIDER MUSKIE	2.5 1	27 1	- 	- 1 1	133 1	113 3	3 A 7	145
SPLAKE	1 *===== 11+624	19,375	6+362	15,330	15.765	11.356	5.932	4,219

	25	26	27	28	29	30	
TABLE 3 (CONT.)	64	65	હ	69	71	74	
DATE NG. LIFTS FIRST LIFT LAST LIFT OPERATING TIME (HRS)	06/03/80 21 407 1157 7•83	06/04/80 16 416 1210 7•90	06/07/80 16 410 1245 8•58	06/08/80 11 413 1200 7.78	06/10/80 13 405 1200 7.92	06/13/80 10 420 1145 7•42	TOTALS 403
FISHING TIME (HRS) AVE RIVER FLOW (KCFS) AVE NATER TEMP. (F) MORPHOLINE USED?	2.93 19.4 73.0 NO	4.08 19.0 73.0 YES	. 5.17 10.8 73.5 NO	5.46 21.3 73.5 0	3.92 17.8 73.5 YES	4.25 21.5 72.0 NO	-
A 45KICAN EEL SLUEBACK HERRING HICKORY SHAD	64 122	12 23	2 162 -	9 13	13 25	19	377 ·· 502 1
ALEAIFE AREKICAN SHAD GARE GRANTE GARE GRANTE RECAFREN STUNATE TUCAT WURNER ANNAMARIAN	14 21,052	8,44? - 1	3,473 16	2 836 -	6.505 -	6+053 -	139 275+736 16 23
GROWN TRUUT PROUK TROUT NORTHERS PIKE MOSKELLUNGE	 .2	27	. 2 - - 1	- - -		. 5 	. 253 . 4 . 3
CARP RIVER CHUS GULDEN SHIMER COKELY JHIMER	63 - - -	271 - - -	8 - 9	137	236 - - -	5 - 3 -	8,879 . 1 35 761
SPOTTAIL SHIMER SPOTFIN SHIMER QUILLBACK WHITE SUCKER	20 -	75 13	9	404 4	20 	- - -	849 314 2,929 1,145
NORTHERN HOS. SUCKER SHARTHEAD REDHORSE WHITE CATFISH YELLOW SULLHEAD	9 -	2 10 14 10	5 49 - 15	55 10	12 22 5	69 - 35	13 1•394 605 18 675
CHANGEL CATEISH RHSTE PERCH: STRIPED RASS	10 2,385 . 1,830	10 1,609 478	. 815 678	1.552 1.425	717, 170	2,095 219	38,929 26,971 88
ROCK BASS SEDUREAST SUNFISH SKEEN SUNFISH PURPKINSEED	61 - 46	139	198 - 25	6 <u>1</u> - 28	51 30	105 1 69 96	1+524 16 445 942
SIDEGILU STOLEMOJTH BASS LARGENOUTH BASS WHIIE CRAPPIE	30	69 1 1	97 15 1 12	35 9 1 10	37 -, -	<u>1</u>	455 41 100
SEA LAMPPEY	236 236	11 103	16 150 -	24 371 395	2 117	2 4 75	373 4+153 1 2+674
STRIPED 3ASS & WHITE BASS TIGER MUSKIE . SPLAKE	237 3 -			1 - -	-	-	34 1 ======
•	.26,313	11,569	6,599	5,533	3,104	9,027	372,380

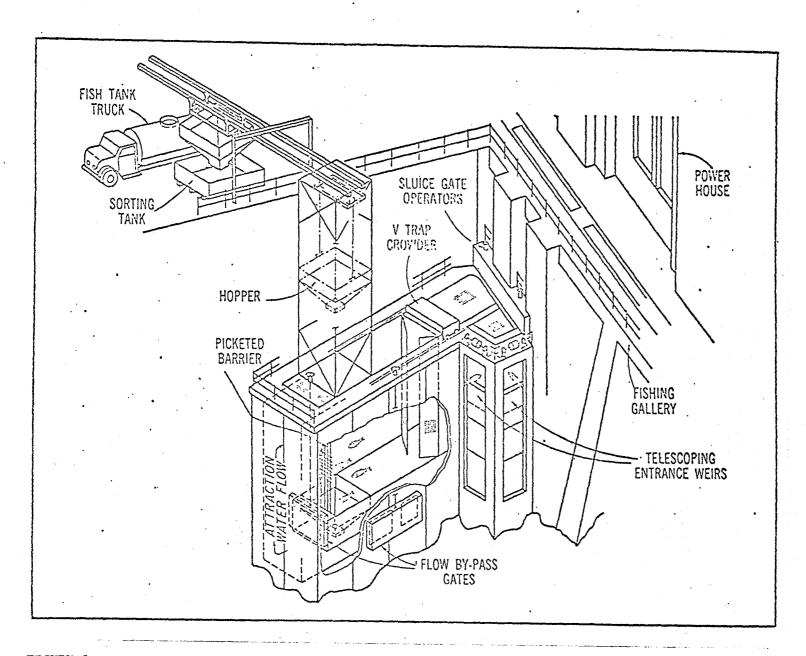
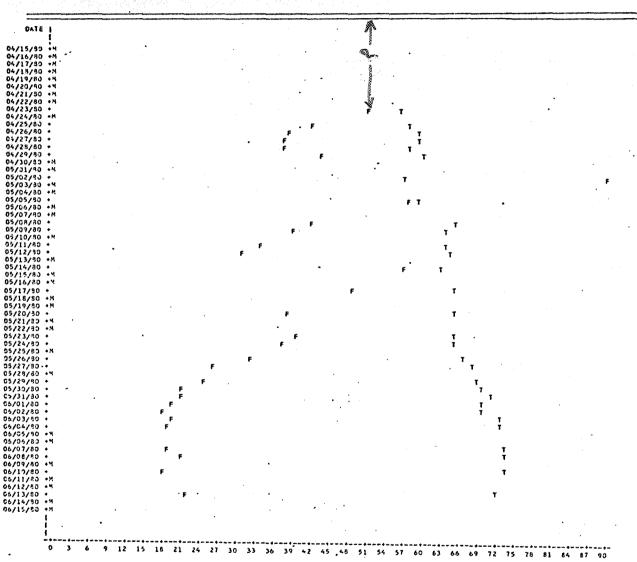


FIGURE 1
Schematic drawing of Conowingo Dam Fish Collection Facility, Anonymous (1972).

FIGURE 2
River flow (F) and water temperature (T) at Conowingo Dam Fish Collection Facility,
15 April-15 June 1980.



RIVER FLOW (KCFS) AND TEMPERATURE (FAHR)

FIGURE 3

Daily catch of American shad at the Conowingo Dam Fish Collection Facility, 15 April-15 June 1980.

ATE	The state of the s	er of cies	Number of American
/80			٠ κ
/80 /80			×
180	ii		M
/80	ii		# ·
(8) (8)			ĥ
/80			5 4
08\	ii ·	13	4
/80 /80	11	13	0 <u>.</u> c
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