



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
May 2, 2014

USIBWC MONITORS WATER QUALITY AFTER DEAD FISH REPORTED

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is performing water quality tests in Falcon Lake upstream and downstream from the point where the Salado River enters the lake after a fish kill was reported in Mexico. Dead fish were detected in the Salado River in Mexico 90 kilometers (56 miles) upstream from Falcon Lake on April 8.

According to the Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, water quality testing performed by Mexican officials from the National Water Commission (CONAGUA) on April 12 showed no pollutants in excess of Mexico's water quality standards. USIBWC scientists who have reviewed the Mexican test results report they are inconclusive regarding what may have caused the fish to die. Laboratory results from the USIBWC water quality tests at Falcon Lake should be available by May 9. The USIBWC has not received any documentation to substantiate what may have caused the fish kill.

Falcon Lake is a man-made reservoir on the Rio Grande at Falcon Heights, TX-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas. Falcon Dam is operated by the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico.

Fish kills have occasionally been reported in the Rio Grande basin due to algae blooms, low river levels, high temperatures, and polluted stormwater runoff, all of which can kill fish by reducing the level of dissolved oxygen in the water, or other unknown causes.

For more information:

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