



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
May 9, 2014

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS ARE NORMAL FOR FALCON LAKE

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has received laboratory results of water samples taken from Falcon Lake on April 30 and May 1, 2014, indicating water quality is normal. The USIBWC and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) coordinated to take samples from Falcon Lake and to provide information to stakeholders. The two agencies performed water quality monitoring 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. Similarly, USIBWC's testing did not indicate a chemical spill or other abnormal contaminant.

The USIBWC tested for such things as pesticides, herbicides, heavy metals, and petroleum products. The lab results are considered normal for Falcon Lake. The USIBWC has not received any documentation to substantiate what may have caused the fish kill in Mexico.

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.

The laboratory results from USIBWC's water quality testing are available online at:
http://www.ibwc.gov/files/sampling_results.pdf

For more information:

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