

Aquatic ecologist named outstanding researcher

Richard "Rich" Valdez, an aquatic ecologist and private consultant from Logan, Utah, is this year's recipient of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program's Outstanding Researcher of the Year Award. Recovery Program Director Bob Muth presented the award at the Upper Basin Researchers Meeting last January.

"I've known and worked with Rich for many years and have always been impressed with his knowledge and deep commitment to the study of native fishes in rivers of the American Southwest," Bob said. "He can always be counted on for level-headed, scientific perspectives on complex, and often controversial, issues."

Rich is a certified fisheries professional with the American Fisheries Society. He has over 30 years of experience working with the fishes of western North America. He has studied fishes in the mainland and islands of Alaska, and in streams and rivers in the American Southwest and in Canada. He also has conducted work on several Western lakes including Flaming Gorge and Navajo reservoirs, and Lake Powell and Lake Mead.



RECOVERY PROGRAM DIRECTOR BOB MUTH, LEFT, PRESENTS RICH VALDEZ WITH THE OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Rich is one of the principle authors of the Recovery Program's recently completed recovery goals for the endangered Colorado River fishes (see News and Updates on page 3). He also is a lead biologist for the recovery of the humpback chub, putting to use his extensive knowledge of that species developed during years of research.

Rich has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and special reports on Western North America fish. He is co-editor of the book, *The 1996 Controlled Flood in Grand Canyon*, and a contributing writer for the book, *Water, Earth, and Sky: The Colorado River Basin*. ◀