

## Memorandum

Date: August 7, 2015

To: Scott Wilson  
Regional Manager  
Bay Delta Region

From: Felipe La Luz  
Environmental Scientist  
Bay Delta Region

Subject: 2015 Summer Townet Survey Age-0 Striped Bass Index

The 2015 Summer Townet Survey (STN) age-0 Striped Bass abundance index is 0.3. This index ties the record low indices reported for 2014 and 2007 (Figure 1).

STN conducts six 'surveys', each lasting three or five days, on alternating weeks from June through August. Each survey samples 31 stations that contribute data to the index. STN also samples nine non-index stations each survey to provide information on distribution and abundance of fish in the Napa River (one station), Cache Slough (three stations), and the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel (SRDWSC; five stations) (Figure 2).

The STN age-0 Striped Bass annual index is calculated from the two surveys bracketing the date when age-0 Striped Bass reach or surpass a mean fork length of 38.1 mm (1.5 inches). This year we estimated that this occurred between Surveys 2 (June 16-18) and 3 (June 29-July 1) on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Age-0 Striped Bass catch at index stations was three times higher during Survey 2 than Survey 3. During Survey 2, Striped Bass were caught in Suisun Bay (n=4), Montezuma Slough (n=13), the lower Sacramento River (n=20), the lower San Joaquin River (n=2), and the east Delta (n=2). During Survey 3, the bulk of catch occurred in Montezuma Slough (n=12) with one additional fish caught in the lower San Joaquin River.

Catch at non-index stations was similar during both surveys. Striped Bass were caught in the SRDWSC during Surveys 2 (n=17) and 3 (n=22), and in Cache Slough during Survey 2 (n=1).

Attachments: 1 (Figures 1 and 2)

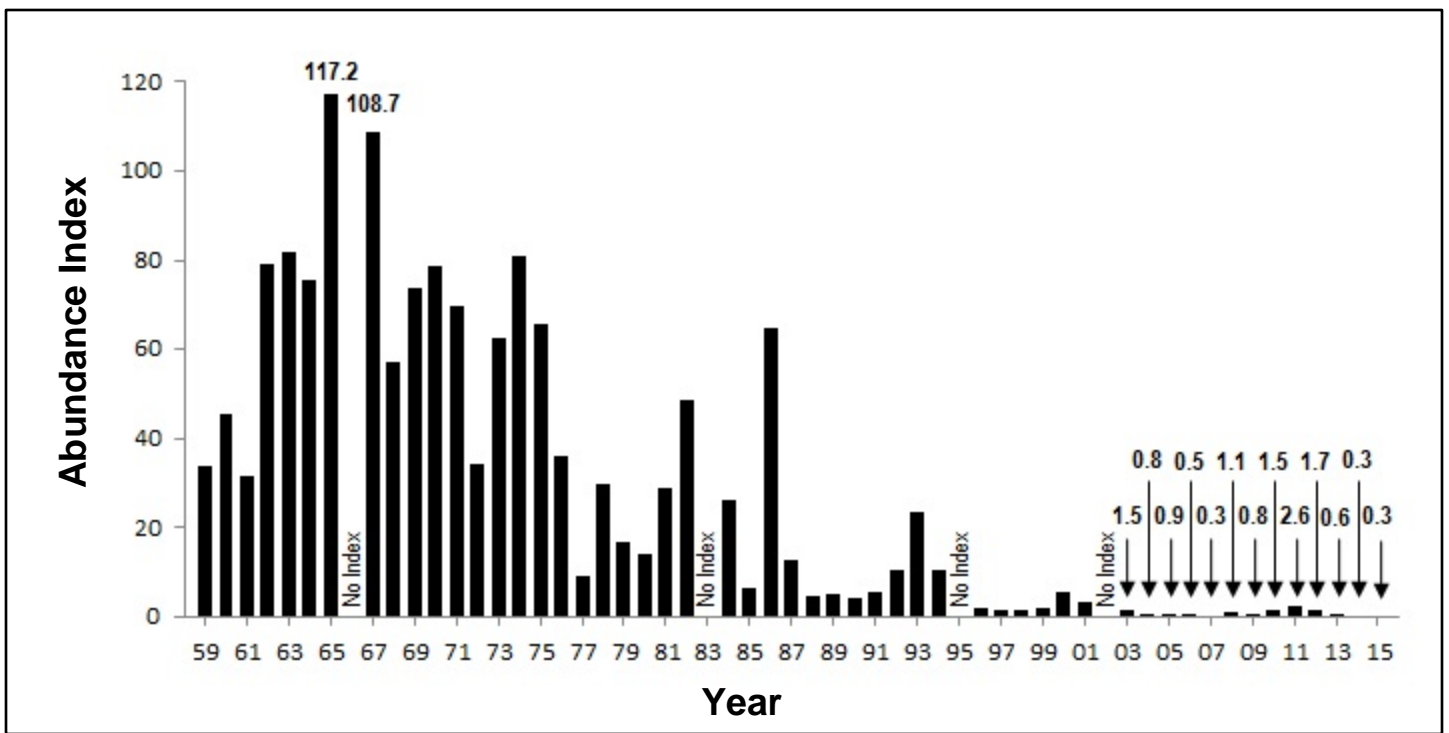


Figure 1. Summer Townet Survey age-0 Striped Bass abundance indices, 1959-2015

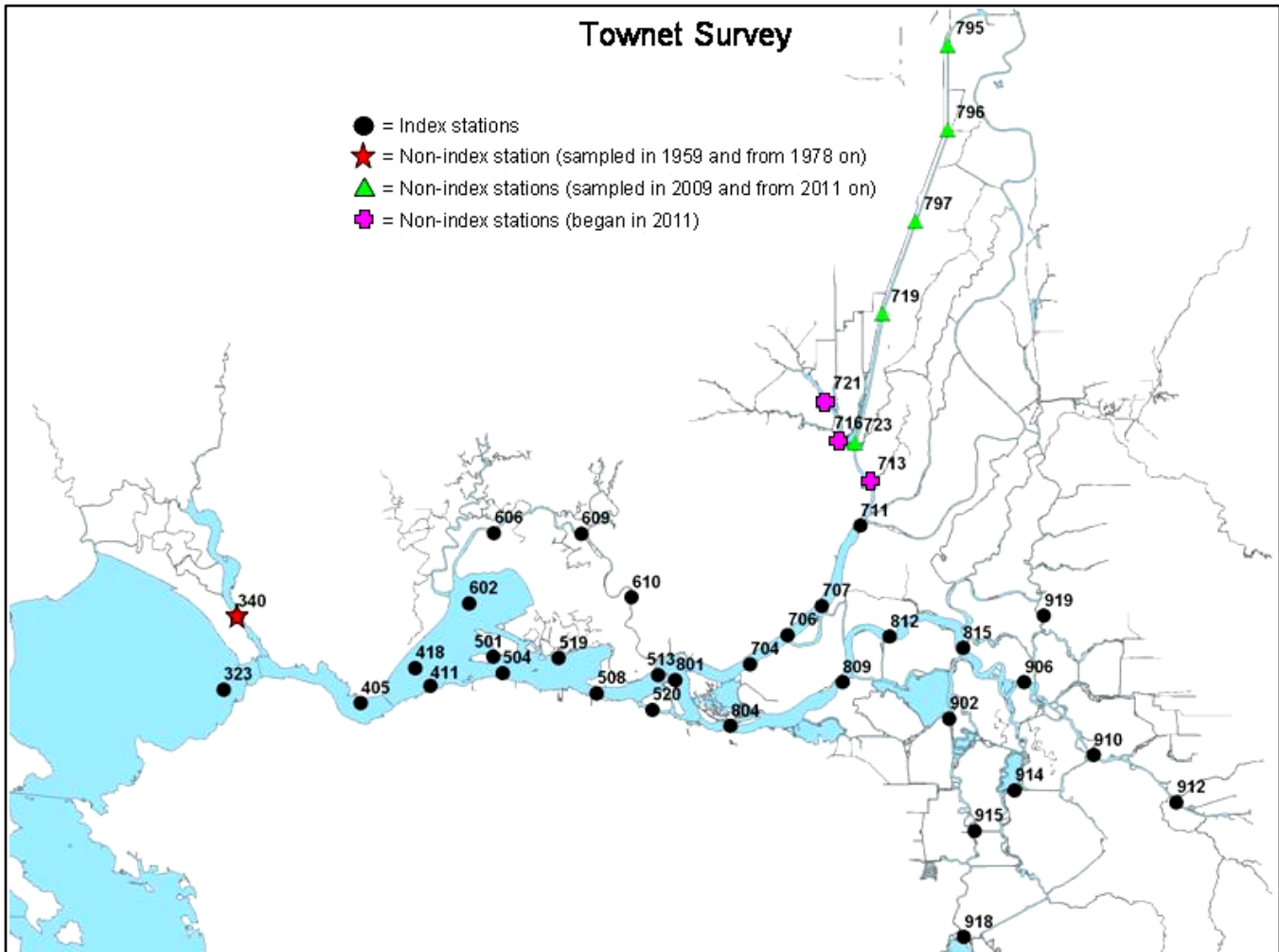


Figure 2. Map of Summer Townet Survey index and non-index station locations.