

Memorandum

Date: June 2, 2016

To: Scott Wilson
Regional Manager
Bay Delta Region

From: Lauren Damon
Environmental Scientist
Bay Delta Region

Trishelle Morris
Environmental Scientist
Bay Delta Region

Subject: 2016 Index of Delta Smelt Relative Abundance from the Spring Kodiak Trawl

2016 Results

The 2016 Spring Kodiak Trawl (SKT) index is 1.8. This is a decrease from the 2015 SKT index (13.8) and is the lowest SKT index on record (Figure 1). This decrease was expected since the Delta Smelt population was at a record low at the end of 2015¹. The SKT monitors the adult spawning stock of Delta Smelt, and this year's low index means the number of spawners is also at a record low. This may limit larval recruitment and hinder their ability to recover in 2016.

Thirteen adult Delta Smelt were collected at 8 stations contributing to the index in 2016 (Figure 2). This is the lowest catch in SKT history, and a steep decline from the 2015 then-record-low catch of 88 fish. Annual adult Delta Smelt catch at index stations averages 311 fish and ranges from 13 to 948.

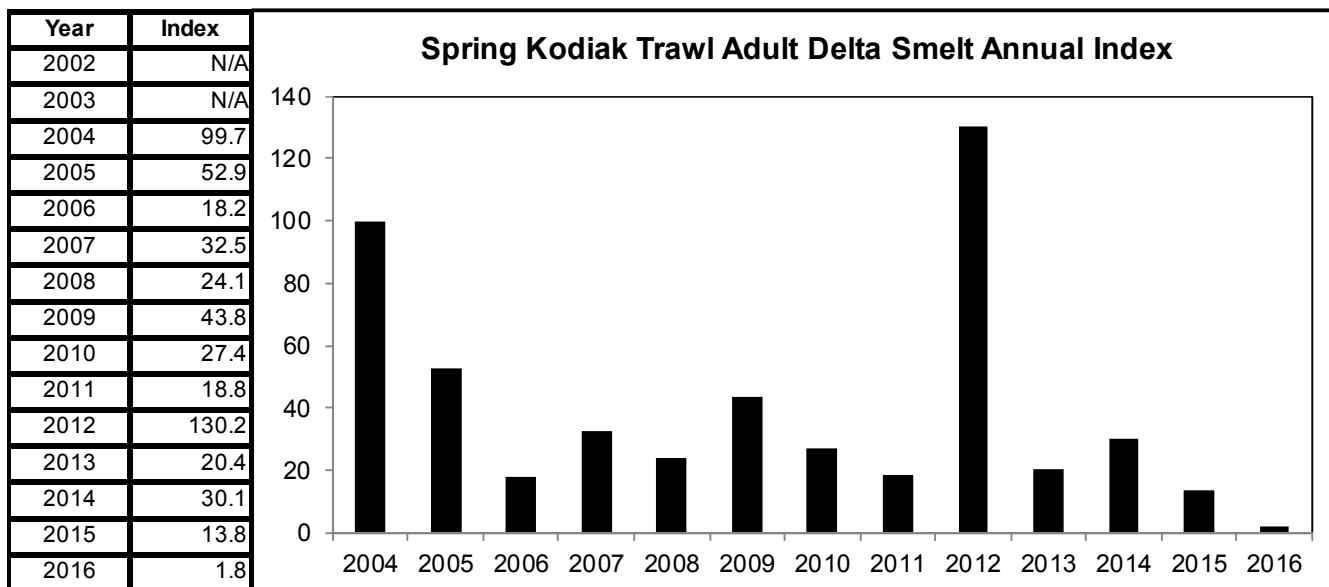


Figure 1. The CDFW's Spring Kodiak Trawl Delta Smelt index over the period of record, 2004-2016.

¹ See the 2015 Fall Midwater Trawl Survey memo available here: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/data/fmwt/bibliography.asp>

