

Memorandum

Date: July 20, 2016

To: Scott Wilson
Regional Manager
Bay Delta Region

From: Felipe La Luz
Environmental Scientist
Bay Delta Region

Subject: 2016 Summer Townet Survey Age-0 Striped Bass Abundance Index

The 2016 Summer Townet Survey (STN) age-0 Striped Bass abundance index is 2.2, which is approximately seven times greater than the 2015 index of 0.3 (Figure 1).

STN conducts surveys on alternating weeks from June through August. Each survey samples 31 stations that contribute data to the index and nine so-called "non-index" stations (Figure 2). The index is calculated using data from the two surveys bracketing the date when age-0 Striped Bass reach or surpass a mean fork length of 38.1 mm. This year we estimated that the index was set on July 6, which was between Survey 2 (June 27-July1) and Survey 3 (July 11-July 15).

STN Survey 2 collected age-0 Striped Bass in Suisun Bay (n=24), at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers (n=44), in the Lower Sacramento River (n=18), and in the lower San Joaquin River (n=8). This survey also collected three fish at non-index stations in the Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel (n=1) and Cache Slough (n=2).

STN Survey 3 collected age-0 Striped Bass in Suisun Bay (n=19)¹, at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers (n=17), in the lower Sacramento River (n=14), and in the South Delta (n=2). This survey also collected two fish at non-index stations in the Napa River (n=1) and Cache Slough (n=1).

Attachments: (Figures 1 and 2)

¹ An equipment malfunction during Survey 3 prevented STN from completing the third tow at station 504. A third tow is conducted at each index station if any fish are collected during the first 2 tows, therefore, the number of tows per survey may fluctuate. STN completed 82 of the 83 tows warranted at index stations and we consider the index to be reliable.

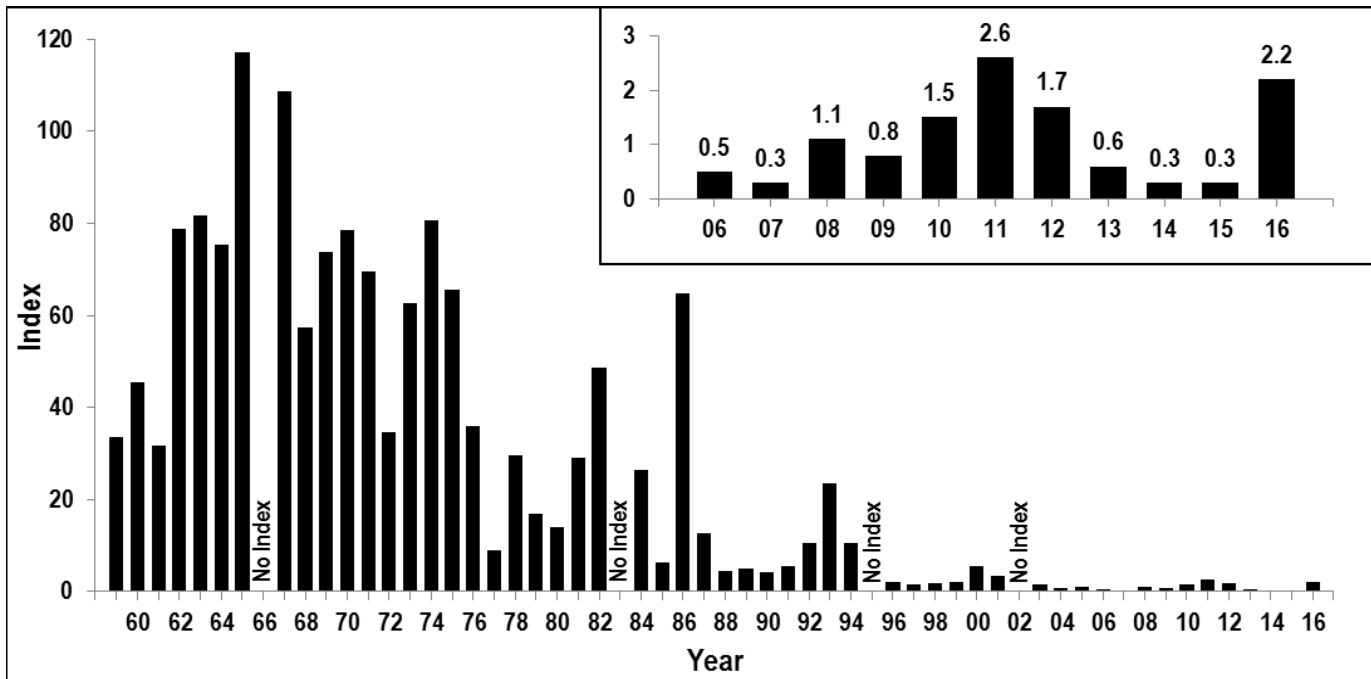


Figure 1. Summer Townet Survey age-0 Striped Bass abundance indices, 1959-2016, with inset showing indices from 2006 to 2016

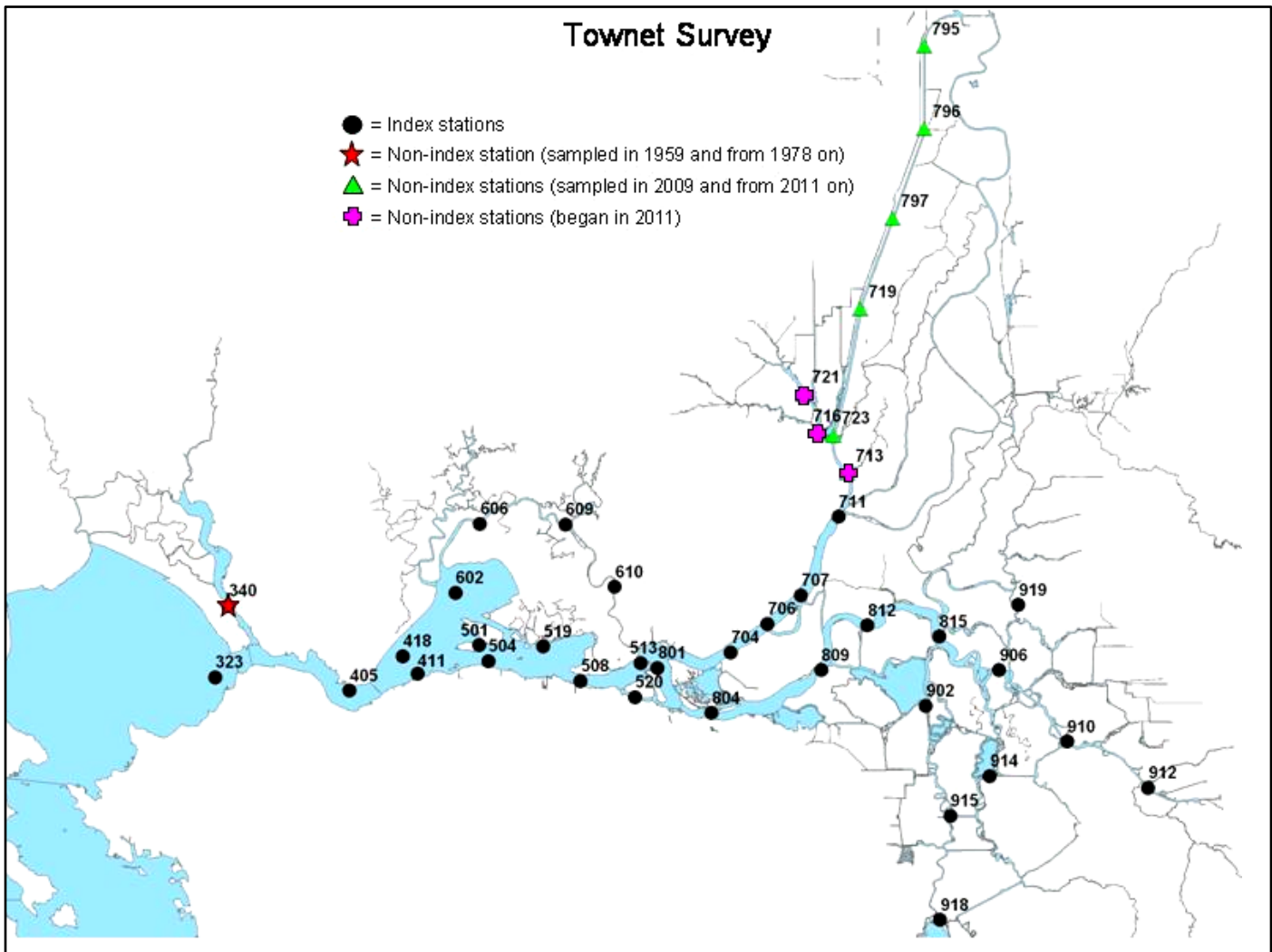


Figure 2. Map of Summer Townet Survey index and supplemental station locations