

Memorandum

Date: August 21, 2017

To: Scott Wilson
Regional Manager
Bay Delta Region

From: Felipe La Luz
Environmental Scientist
Bay Delta Region

Subject: 2017 Summer Townet Survey Age-0 Striped Bass Abundance Index

The 2017 Summer Townet Survey (STN) age-0 Striped Bass abundance index is 4.0¹, which is the highest index since 2000 (Figure 1).

STN conducts surveys on alternating weeks from June through August. Each survey samples 31 stations that contribute data to the index as well as nine 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 mean fork length of age-0 Striped Bass exceeded 38.1 mm on August 6th, which was between Survey 4 (July 24-26) and Survey 5 (August 7-9).

STN Survey 4 collected age-0 Striped Bass in Suisun Bay (n=86), at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers (n=17), in the lower Sacramento River (106), in the lower San Joaquin River (n=2) and in the South Delta (n=1). One additional fish was collected at a non-index station in Cache Slough.

STN Survey 5 collected age-0 Striped Bass in Suisun Bay (n=62), at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers (n=15), and in the lower Sacramento River (n=90).

Attachments: (Figures 1 and 2)

¹ During Survey 4, STN was unable to complete a third tow at station 704 due to unsafe conditions. A third tow is conducted at each index station if any fish are collected during the first two tows. STN collected 10 and 4 age-0 Striped Bass during the first and second tows, respectively. It is likely that a third tow would have resulted in catch of four or more age-0 Striped Bass, which would have been the minimum needed to increase the index from 4.0 to 4.1.

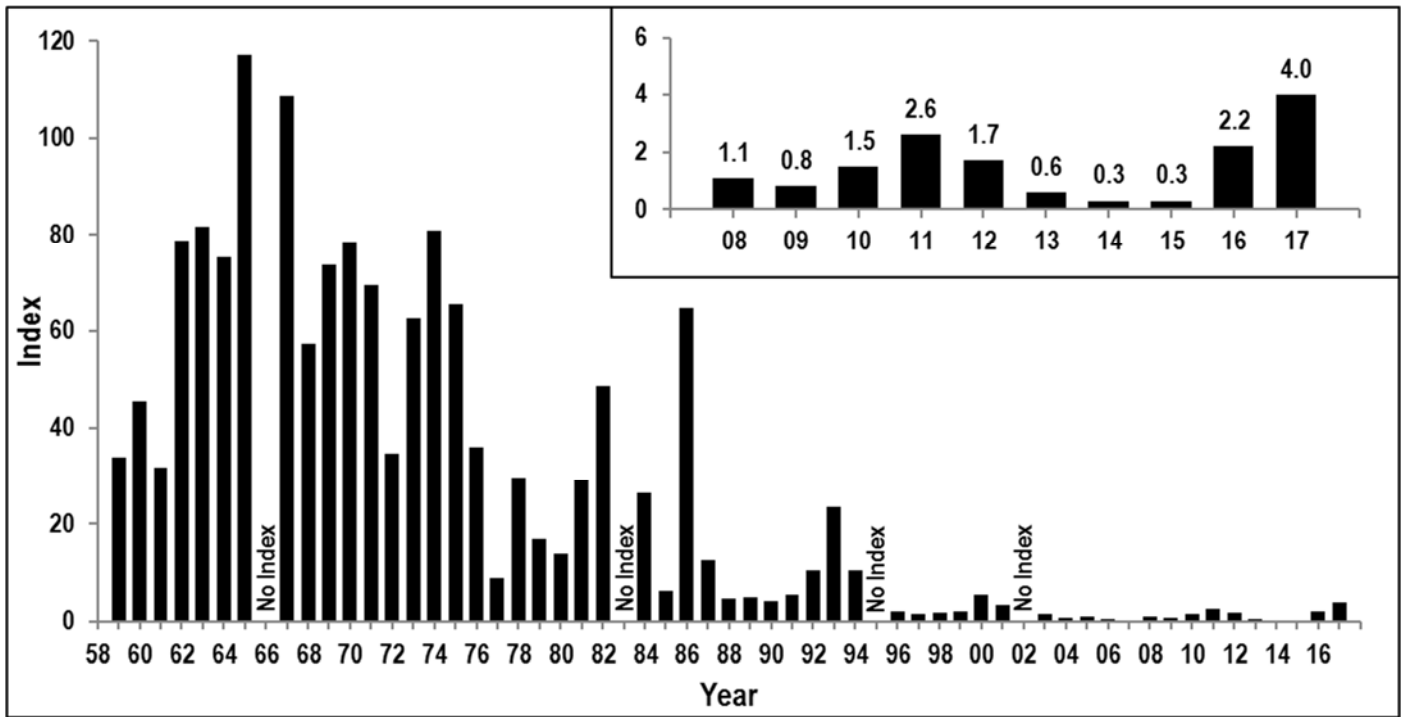


Figure 1. Summer Towner Survey age-0 Striped Bass abundance indices, 1959-2017, with inset showing indices from 2008 to 2017.

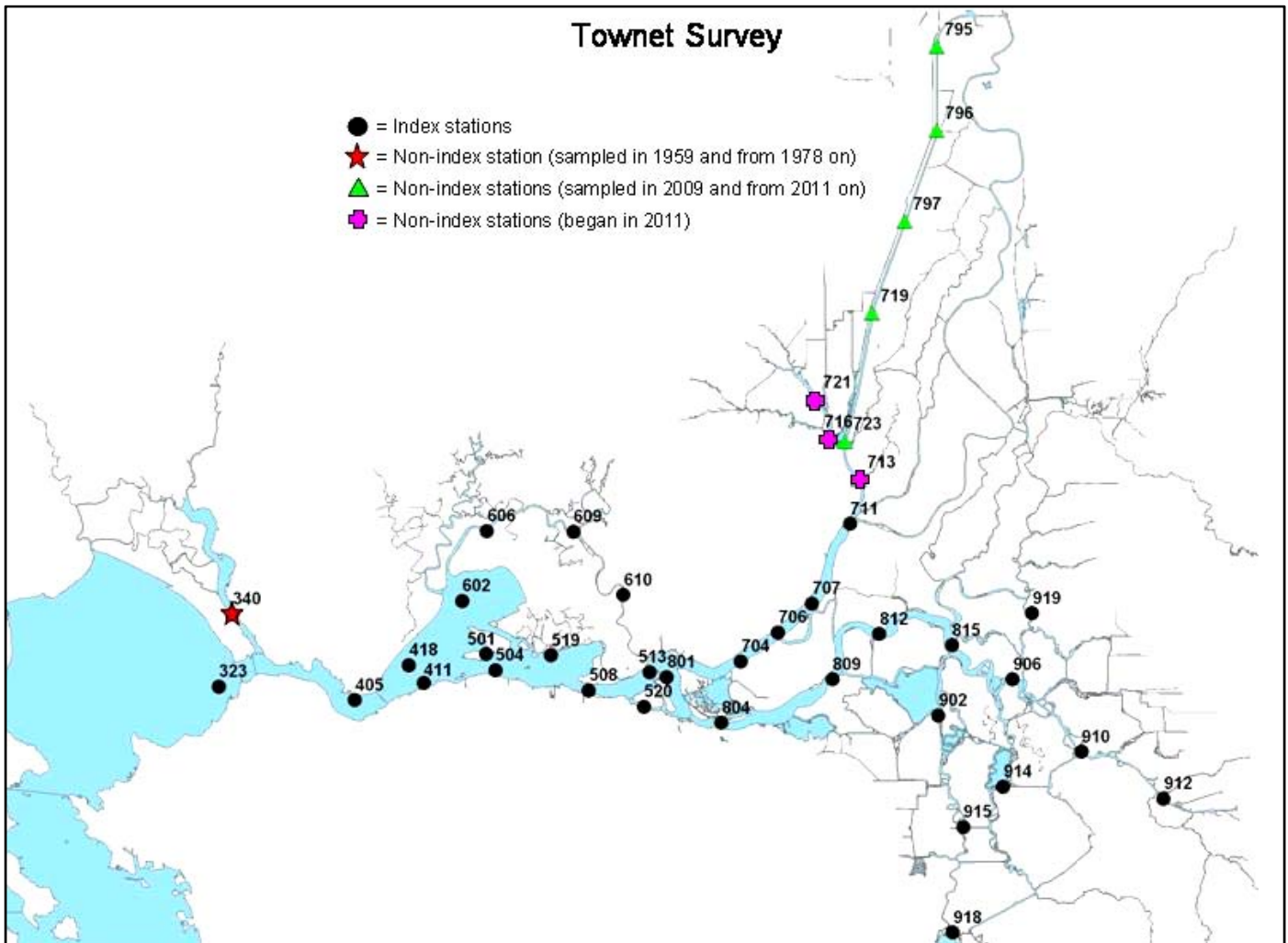


Figure 2. Map of Summer Towner Survey index and supplemental station locations