Interagency Ecological Program 2023 Work Plan Element
Spring Kodiak Trawl (SKT)

Project Manager and Affiliation

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Principal Investigator and Affiliation

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Annual Costs (thousands) and Funding Sources

$125 DWR; $125 USBR

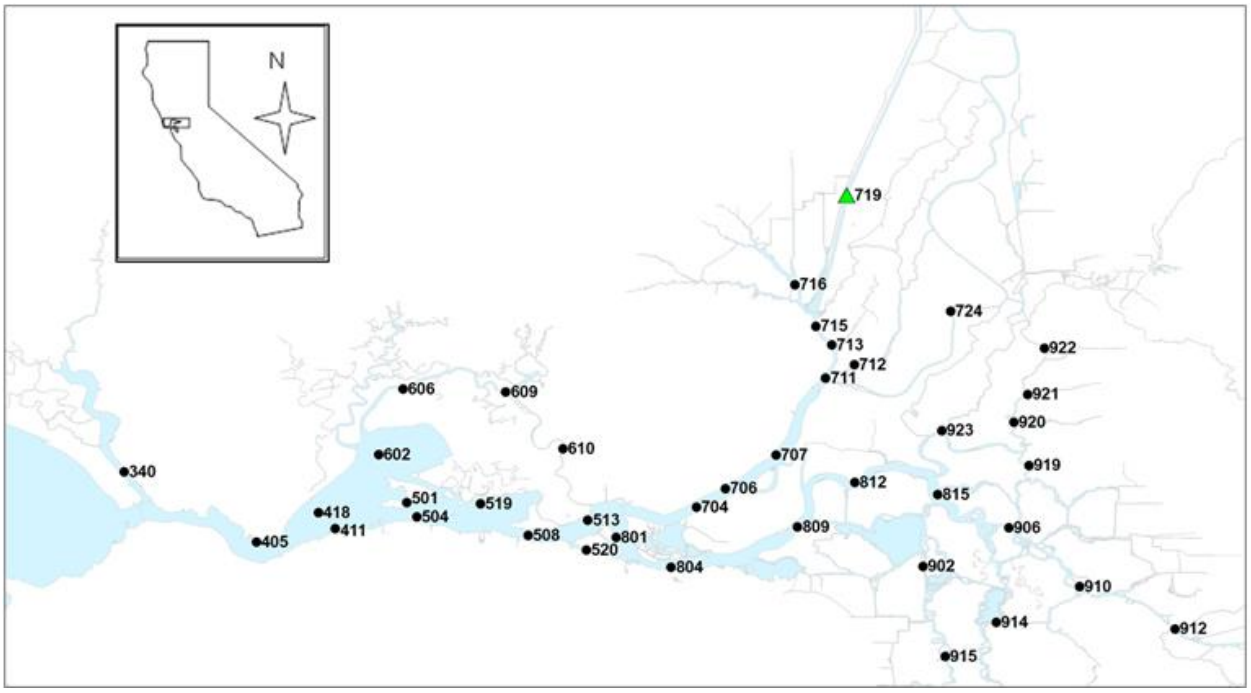

Figure 1: Station locations for the 2021 CDFW Spring Kodiak Trawl in the upper San Francisco Estuary. Black dots represent stations that have been sampled since the survey's inception in 2002; the green triangle represents a station added in 2005.

Description

The Spring Kodiak Trawl (SKT) began in 2002 and provides information on the distribution of pre-spawning and spawning Delta Smelt to improve our ability to detect adult Delta Smelt, obtain maturity status data, and provide results on a near "real-time" basis to assist in water management and export decisions.

Need

The survey determines pre-spawning and spawning distribution of adult Delta Smelt in relation to the CVP and SWP water export facilities. As specified in the 2008 Delta Smelt Biological Opinion (BO) for the operation of the SWP and the CVP real-time distributional information is used to implement RPA Component 1 Actions 1 and 2 to protect pre-spawning adult Delta Smelt from entrainment and loss related to water operations. This data is used to adaptively manage water exports and flows to protect these fish and their rearing habitat. Due to its superiority in sampling efficiency to the earlier Fall Midwater Survey, the early results of the SKT are used by USFWS to help validate their estimates of the absolute abundance of adult Delta Smelt at extremely low population levels.

Objectives

- Determines the distribution of maturing Delta Smelt during the period of January through May
- Evaluates the sexual maturation of Delta Smelt during this period and detects the start of spawning migration
- Reports current relative abundance compared to historical annual abundances

Schedule of Milestones

January – May: Every month between January through May field surveys will be conducted and field results will be reported during that same week to the Smelt Monitoring Team after the field sampling are concluded. Shortly afterwards, raw, and calculated data will be uploaded to the CDFW Region 3's SKT Survey web page.

June: A memo describing the annual abundance index will be prepared and distributed by early June.

End of Year: By the end of the calendar year a draft survey summary article will be submitted to the Editor of the IEP newsletter for publication.