



Interagency Ecological Program 2024 Work Plan Element Smelt Larva Survey (SLS)

Project Manager and Affiliation

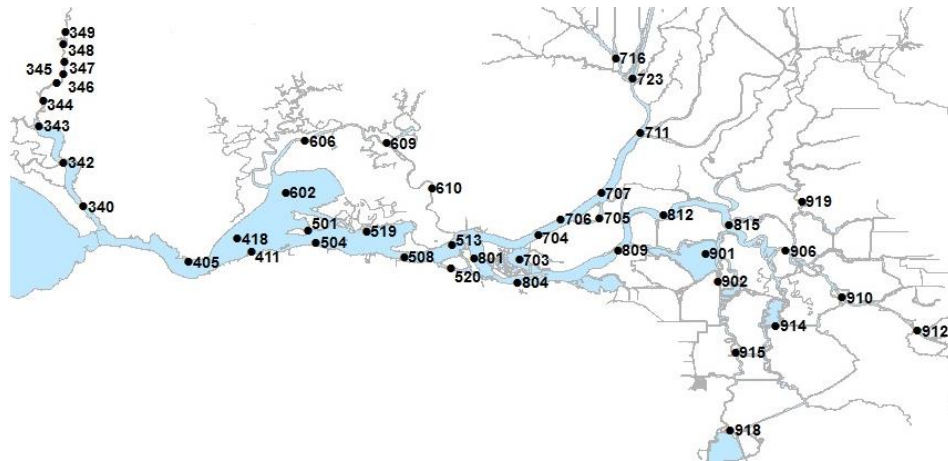
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Principal Investigator and Affiliation

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Annual Cost (thousands) and Funding Sources

\$254 DWR; \$242 USBR



Map of the Smelt Larva Survey station locations in the upper San Francisco Estuary sampled by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Description

The Smelt Larva Survey (SLS), initiated in January 2009, provides near real-time distribution data for Longfin Smelt larvae in the Delta, Suisun Bay, Suisun Marsh, and San Pablo Bay for the protection of larval and juvenile Longfin Smelt from January through March.

Project Need

The data obtained from SLS are used by agency managers to assess vulnerability of Longfin Smelt larvae to entrainment in south Delta export pumps. This larval fish survey is designed to 1) replace the existing North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) survey mandated by the 1995 Biological Opinion (1-1-94-F-70), 2) provide a more comprehensive coverage of distribution and abundance of larval Longfin Smelt from the Delta and upper estuary, 3) augment other sources of data used in the decision making process for water operations including Environmental Water Account (EWA) evaluation, and 4) at a cost IEP 2015-2019 SOW 16 savings, piggyback on the existing IEP 20-mm survey field operations when the two

programs overlap temporally. This survey is also required by the Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2009-001-03 for the State Water Project, issued by CDFW under the California Endangered Species Act and Fish and Game Code Sections 2081(b) and 2081(c), and Calif. Code of Regulations, Title 14. Export and flow management are guided through distribution and catch criteria based on this study.

Project Objectives

- Determine the larval Longfin Smelt abundance, temporal and spatial distribution in near real time
- Determine whether the temporal and spatial distribution and abundance of larval and post-larval Longfin Smelt are determinate factors on the level of entrainment losses

Schedule of Milestones

- Every two weeks during December through March field surveys will be conducted and field and laboratory results will be reported weekly to the Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) and the WOMT team starting 5 days after the field sampling are concluded.
- Shortly afterwards, raw and calculated data will be uploaded to the Region 3's SLS Survey web page.
- By the end of the calendar year a draft survey summary article will be submitted to the Editor of the IEP newsletter for publication.

Project Products and Publications

None provided.