

Geographic Review Panel 1 – Bay Delta

Proposal number: 2001-K202 **Short Proposal Title:** Use of the Delta for Rearing by Central Valley Chinook Salmon.

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. This proposal is applicable to the Central Valley basin, with special emphasis on salmon rearing in the Delta, and supports ERP Goal 1, recovery of native at-risk species dependent on the Delta and would contribute to CVPIA goals.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. Proposal makes a general linkage with other CALFED projects. Information on chinook salmon rearing in the Delta obtained from this proposal would be useful for salmon survival and life history studies in the Delta conducted in the Interagency Ecological Program for the Sacramento-San Francisco Estuary (IEP) by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game, and by other investigators.

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. The collection and analysis of the otoliths should be completed as scheduled. Panel concurs with the deficiencies in the program design identified in the TARP comments that differentiation of the stocks with otoliths may be difficult.

Project applicants have conducted a pilot study to determine utility of otolith/scale information for use in salmon/steelhead life history analysis. An IEP proposal review process identified otolith microstructure analysis as an appropriate tool in analyzing life history.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. The applicants are very qualified to conduct the work identified in the proposal.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). The life history information that will be developed in this proposal should be useful to salmon researchers and managers in the Delta. No opposition to the proposal or third party impacts are identified.

6. Cost. The costs seem excessive. Most of the work could be done by technician-grade staff. The general budget items seem appropriate. The lack of detail in the assignment of tasks to personnel, however, prevents assessment whether the costs are appropriate.

7. Cost sharing. The Department of Fish and Game is contributing \$134,000 for program management and \$16,000 for laboratory and office facilities.

8. Additional comments.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: The TARP comments address some potential inadequacies in program design that could result in failure to accomplish some tasks. The panel concurs with those comments and concerns. The development of otolith data has many potential uses for salmon research and management.