

Fish Restoration Program

Habitat Restoration for the Delta

Fish Restoration Program

Background

The Fish Restoration Program (FRP) is a 2010 agreement between two California agencies - the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) that will fulfill restoration requirements in the following regulatory mandates:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's and the National Marine Fisheries Service's evaluations of the impacts on threatened and endangered species that result from the operations of the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project (Biological Opinions)
- CDFW's habitat requirements for the Longfin Smelt Incidental Take Permit for State Water Project Delta operations

The state and federal water projects supply water to three million acres of irrigated agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley and Tulare Basin and to 25 million Californians in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Central Coast and Southern California.

Purpose

The primary FRP obligation is to restore 8,000 acres of intertidal marsh and associated subtidal habitat in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. This includes 800 acres of marsh in the low-salinity-zones of the estuary made up of the Suisun Marsh and the westernmost part of the Delta. The FRP also includes a number of actions to benefit winter-run and spring-run salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and other native fish species.

The focus of these restoration efforts will be in the Delta, Suisun Marsh and Yolo Bypass (see map). These efforts will take place on existing publicly owned lands, on land acquired from willing sellers and through coordination with existing restoration efforts of other public agencies.

Fish Restoration Program

Relation to Other Major Delta Conservation Efforts

In addition to the habitat restoration efforts taking place under the FRP, there are a number of other Delta and Suisun Marsh restoration and planning efforts underway with which the FRP program will coordinate. Among these are:

- Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan
- Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
- Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan
- Ecosystem Restoration Program Stage 2 Conservation Strategy
- Delta Native Species Recovery Plan
- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan

DWR and CDFW will work within these and other planning efforts to facilitate the implementation of the habitat restoration components of these programs where appropriate. The Delta Plan and BDCP both include discussions and processes that describe how agencies can ensure consistency in the planning and implementation of habitat restoration projects.

For More Information

- Visit the FRP website:
<http://www.water.ca.gov/environmentalservices/frpa.cfm>
- On the FRP website, view the FRP Implementation Strategy under Other Associated Documents



PLANNED FRP AND OTHER TIDAL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS FOR BiOps AND ITP COMPLIANCE

Tidal Restoration Projects*

-  Fish Restoration Program (Department of Water Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife)
-  State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)
-  Department of Water Resources (FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office)/SFCWA

*Listed acreage reflects property boundaries and not amount to be credited

Reference Features

-  Yolo Bypass
-  Legal Delta
-  Suisun Plan of Protection Boundary
-  Tidal Marsh
-  Muted Tidal Marsh
-  Tidal Waters

Lower Yolo Restoration and Enhancement
(1,749 ac of 3,423-ac site)

Prospect Island Restoration
(1,617 ac)

Overlook Club Restoration
(160 ac)

Tule Red Enhancement
(378 ac)

McCormack-Williamson Restoration
(1,616 ac)

Elevation

-  SLR: 0-5 ft above MHHW
-  Intertidal: MHHW to MLLW
-  Shallow Subtidal: 0-2 ft below MLLW
-  Mid Subtidal: 2-5 ft below MLLW
-  Deep Subtidal: 5-8 ft below MLLW
-  Very Deep Subtidal: >8 ft below MLLW

