

POD Highlights

IEP Quarterly Directors Update

June 2009

Delta Smelt in the North Delta:

- Spring 2009 catches of adult, larval, and juvenile delta smelt were highest at a recently established monitoring station in the Sacramento ship channel and indicate spawning and rearing in this area.
- The POD team presented evidence in March that some delta smelt remain year-round in the Cache Slough Complex including Liberty Island.
- While these new findings are important for habitat restoration and species management, we wish to clarify that there is no evidence that these fish represent a genetically distinct population.
- A recently published journal article found no genetic evidence for distinct delta smelt populations in 30 fish caught in the lower Sacramento River (Fisch et al., Molecular Ecology Resources 2009).
- Ongoing genetic work includes delta smelt from the Cache Slough region.
- Refined toxicity tests conducted this spring found acute toxicity of Sacramento River water collected at Hood and of San Joaquin River water collected near Stockton to delta smelt.
- A new modeling study predicts continued limited delta smelt habitat area under various future climate change and water demand scenarios.

May 26-27 Physical Modeling and Fish Management Workshop:

- First of five public workshops in local IEP 2009 workshop series.
- 19 talks by IEP and non-IEP modelers and invited lunch-time speakers.
- Technical and programmatic discussions involving audience of about 80 scientists and stakeholders and the IEP Science Advisory Group (SAG).
- SAG report about IEP modeling activities expected in summer 2009.
- Models developed as part of POD are especially sophisticated (e.g. striped bass life cycle model, 3-D Clifton Court Forebay hydrodynamic model).

2010 POD Workplan:

- Development guided by new conceptual model about pelagic habitat alternatives.
- Fall habitat study required by the delta smelt biological opinion will be a central, distinct component that will be complemented and contextualized by other POD elements.
- Continued emphasis on modeling and north delta studies.
- Continued partnerships with NCEAS and CESU.

Future Events and Products:

- Summer 2009: POD MT Progress Report - 2008 Synthesis of Results
- Spring-Fall 2009: IEP Workshops & State of the Estuary Update
- Spring 2010: IEP Asilomar Workshop
- Fall 2010: CALFED Science Conference
- End 2010: POD MT& NCEAS Synthesis Report