

IEP Science Highlights

IEP Quarterly Directors Update

September 22, 2011

2011 Spring and Summer Fish Surveys

- Overall, spring and summer indices for delta smelt and striped bass were higher in 2011 than in 2010, but remain low compared to historical indices before 2000.
 - The 2011 Spring 20-mm **postlarval delta smelt** abundance index is 8.0, an increase from 2010 (3.8) and the highest index since 2006.
 - The 2011 Summer Townt Survey (TNS) **juvenile delta smelt** abundance index is 2.2, an increase from the 2010 (0.8) and the highest index since 2004.
 - The 2011 Summer Townt Survey (TNS) **juvenile striped bass** index is 2.6, an increase from the 2010 (1.5) and the highest index since 2001.

IEP Science Teams, Events, and Publications

- Focused science teams are one of the most effective tools for interagency science cooperation and collaboration with others. In the IEP, these teams are called Project Work Teams (PWTs, <http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/docs/IEP-ORG.pdf>). PWTs focus on specific research and monitoring topics of interest to policy makers, managers, scientists, and the public and are open to all who want to participate. This year, the IEP has formed three new PWTs focused upon:
 - New studies related to restoration activities in the Yolo Bypass (chair: Ted Sommer, DWR);
 - Migratory fish telemetry research and monitoring in the Central Valley (co-chairs: Pat Brandes, USFWS, and Cynthia LeDoux-Bloom, DWR); and
 - Salmon and steelhead genetic research and monitoring in the Central Valley (chair: Josh Israel, Reclamation).
- The IEP Management Level Advisory Group (MLAG) is an IEP stakeholder group and serves as a forum to exchange information and discuss IEP planning. The fall 2011 MLAG meeting is September 22, 2011, 9 AM – 12 PM, in Sacramento.
- Results from the IEP-POD investigations were the focus of a day-long symposium at the national Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) held in Seattle, WA, September 4 – 8, 2011. The AFS is the world's largest association of fisheries professionals and scientists. The 2011 meeting was attended by over 4,000 fisheries professionals from across the globe. The theme of the conference was "New Frontiers in Fisheries Management and Ecology: Leading the Way in a Changing World." With the exception of two scientists sponsored by USGS and AFS, no other IEP state scientists attended this conference due to State travel restrictions.
- The number of peer reviewed IEP publications continues to increase. This includes a paper by Fisch et al. about delta smelt population genetics published in summer 2011. Based on their results, the authors concluded that delta smelt should be managed as a single population throughout its range to preserve genetic diversity.

Other IEP Science Activities:

- The Directed and Coordinated Studies portions of the 2012 IEP Workplan are under development. Directed studies proposals are being reviewed and refined.
- Efforts for the Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station (RVERS) will be aided greatly by proposed new funding from USBR which will be applied towards the costs of planning.
- Ongoing IEP participation in meetings includes BDCP coordination, Delta Plan Science and Adaptive Management planning, and CA WQMC "Estuaries Workgroup" meetings.