

An Overview of the Salton Sea Fish and Wildlife Resources



The Salton Sea Ecosystem is Highly Diverse

The Salton Sea supports

over 400 species of zooplankton and phytoplankton

3 species of macro invertebrates

10 species of fish in the Sea and drains

Over 400 species of birds

The fishes of the Sea have changed over the years

Early Species included:

- Carp
- Bonytail chub
- Razorback sucker
- Colorado River squawfish
- Striped mullet
- Desert pupfish
- Mosquitofish

Fish species during the past 50 years

- Gulf croaker
- Orangemouth corvina
- Sargo



introduced from Gulf of California between 1950 and 1956

Tilapia



Invaded from irrigation drains in the 1960's

Desert pupfish

Longjaw mudsucker

Striped mullet

Sailfin molly

Threadfin shad

Mosquito fish – in drains

Bird Species

Over 400 species use the Sea and surrounding area

A significant percent of the annual breeding efforts occur at the Sea for the following species:

Gull-billed terns

Double-crested cormorants

Caspian terns

Black skimmers

36 species of waterfowl winter at the Sea

5 species of waterfowl are known to breed in the area

Bird Species

44 species of shorebirds have been recorded at the Sea

5 species breed regularly at the Sea

The agricultural lands contiguous and surrounding the Sea are important to sensitive species such as

- Mountain plovers
- Burrowing owl
- White-faced ibis
- Greater sandhill crane

Listed Species

There are 4 listed species of birds and 1 listed fish that are associated with the Salton Sea

California least tern – FE/SE, FP

California brown pelican – FE/SE, FP

Bank swallow - ST

Bald eagle – FT/SE, FP

Desert pupfish - FE/SE

Listed Species

In addition, there are 12 listed bird species that use the habitats surrounding the Salton Sea

Yuma clapper rail - FE/ST, FP

Greater sandhill crane – ST, FP

Least Bell's vireo – FE/SE

Gila woodpecker – SE

Elf owl – SE

Peregrine falcon - SE, FP

California black rail - FS/ST, FP

Willow flycatcher – FE/SE

Arizona Bell's vireo - SE

Gilded flicker – SE

Western yellow-billed cuckoo – SE

Swainson's hawk - ST

Sensitive Bird Species Associated with the Salton Sea

Western snowy plover – CSC

Black tern – FS

Fulvous whistling duck - CSC

Merlin – CSC

Long-billed curlew – CSC

Osprey – CSC

Wood stork – CSC

Double-crested cormorant – CSC

Elegant tern – FS

Van Rossem's gull-billed tern – FS/CSC

Vaux's swift - CSC

Black swift - CSC

Reddish egret – FS

Laughing gull – CSC

Prairie falcon – CSC

Black skimmer – CSC

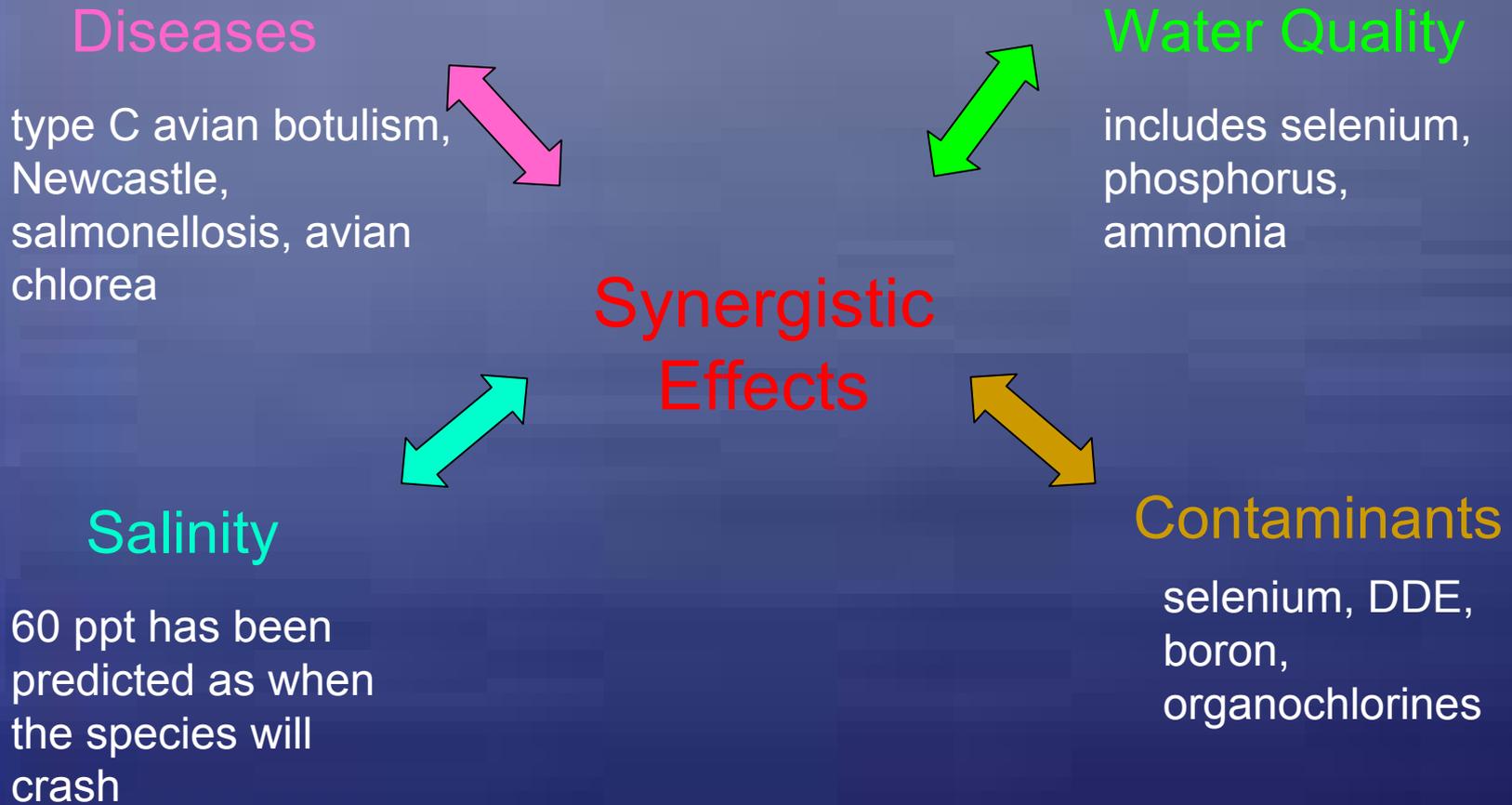
American white pelican – CSC

Purple martin – CSC

CSC – California Species of Special Concern

FS – Federal Species of Concern

Issues facing the fish and wildlife of the Salton Sea





SALTON SEA
DATABASE
PROGRAM

