

From USGS Salton Sea Science Office
for
Salton Sea Authority Item #6
Presentation to Advisory Committee on 11/30/04

It is important to maintain the integrity of ecosystem during the transition period to insure the appropriate quantity and quality of habitats are provided for biological resources, and that these resources are protected from adverse impacts. The Science Office recommends the following actions:

- Continue support for the integrated monitoring program for water quality, fish populations, bird populations, (including surrounding agricultural areas), and key aquatic invertebrates. Continuation of this program allows for assessing population trends relative to changing environmental conditions and identifying problems as they arise.
- Insure availability of shallow-water avian habitats, which will be an integral component of almost any foreseeable restoration alternative. Conduct research on construction, function, and durability of these habitats, particularly with regard to contaminants.
- Identify, establish, and develop desert pupfish maintenance areas. Maintain channel connectivity for existing drains. Maintenance of pupfish populations will be a focal point for any restoration scenario.
- Continue efforts for reducing eutrophication through coordinated activities with TMDL programs, Best Management Practices on agricultural areas, and new research.
- Evaluate habitat quality and quantity for the Yuma Clapper Rail, an endangered species. Insure adequate habitat is provided for this species as the Sea recedes.
- Maintain flooding of agricultural fields for migratory birds during periods of reduced habitat availability at the Sea. Monitor bird use of these fields.
- Continue monitoring of fisheries to verify presence or absence a key species.