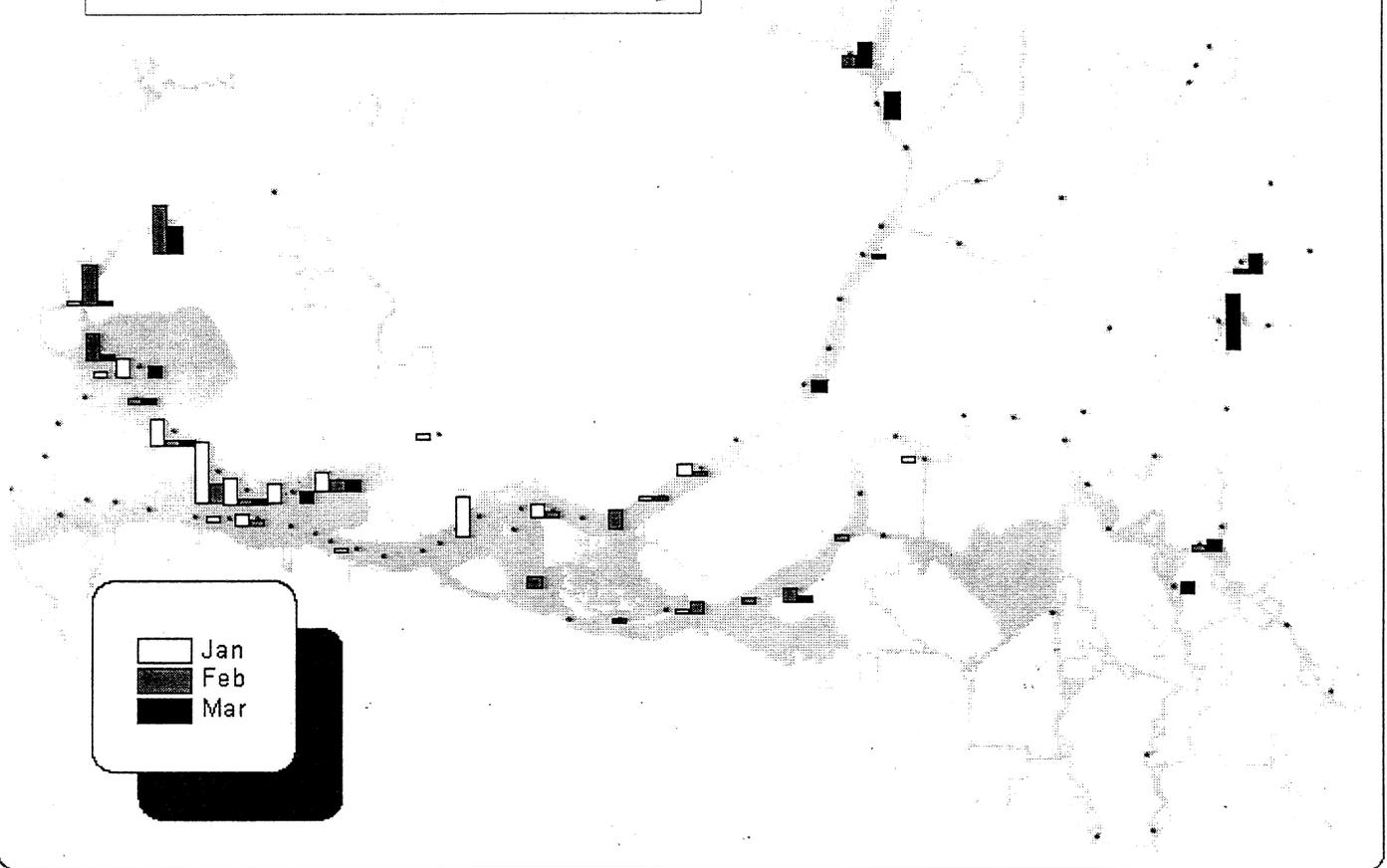


Department of Fish and Game
Spring Midwater Trawl
Delta Smelt Distribution



Delta smelt distribution increased through February and March. Fish were collected in Suisun Marsh, near Cache Slough and in the Mokelumne. Smelt continue to be collected by the facilities, though the densities have declined. Historically, the peak salvage of adults occurred during February.

Temperature throughout the delta have continued to climb steadily. Temperatures delta-wide have range from 15-17°C. Delta smelt may begin spawning around 10°C, however, most spawning appears to take place between 14 and 18°C. In mid-February yolk-sac stage larval delta smelt were collected in the Prospect Island and Cache Slough areas by North Bay Aqueduct Sampling Program. That early spawn appears to have been limited and no more delta smelt larvae have been collected in NBA sampling since. NBA results can be found at:

<http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/nba/2000/index.asp>.

The 2001 20MM survey began in earnest on March 19. The lab processing of samples was delayed three days due to problems with the labs waste disposal unit. Early results show some small (yolk-sac) larvae near the confluence. More results will be up on the web page:

<http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/2000/>