

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
REVIEW OF 2007 FISHERIES AND
SUMMARY OF 2008 STOCK ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) notes that the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) report to the Habitat Committee on Central Valley habitat conditions and juvenile outmigration does not tell the whole story.

Specifically:

1. While 2005 recoveries of juvenile salmon in the Chipps Island trawl survey were at comparable levels as previous years:
 - a. Recoveries from 2006 were absent
 - b. The three state hatcheries release their fish downstream from the Chipps Island trawl site.
 - c. The portion of these fish's life history from Chipps Island to age-2 including their stay in and passage through San Francisco Bay was described by the presenter as a "black hole" for information.
2. No mention was made of net pen releases of state hatchery fish and the relative success of failure of the net pens, which did not operate in 2005 and 2006.
3. No information was presented on the effects of the major bridge reconstruction undertaken in the Carquinez Strait during the critical time for these fish on salmon.
4. No quantitative information on total water outflows to the ocean and water exports from the Delta was presented.
5. The information presented about restoration efforts was too qualitative and general.

In short, the SAS believes that CDFG's presentation falls a long way short of absolving Central Valley freshwater and estuary conditions of at least partial responsibility for the impending Central Valley salmon fishery failure.