



# State of the Estuary Report 2015

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California Monitoring Council  
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**SUMMARY OF BAY HEALTH, 2011**

	STATUS	TREND	DETAILS
<b>WATER</b>			
Safe for aquatic life	Fair	Improving	Bay water quality is better than 40 years ago, but the rate of improvement has slowed. Mercury, exotic species, toxic sediments, and trash are still problems, with improvement expected for exotics and trash. Many potentially harmful chemicals have yet to be assessed.
Fish safe to eat	Fair	No change	Limited consumption of most popular Bay fish species is advised due to contamination from legacy pollutants. No signs of improvement since 1994.
Safe for swimming	Good	No change	Most Bay beaches are safe for swimming in summer, but bacterial contamination is still a problem at most beaches in wet weather.
Freshwater inflow	Poor	No change	Amounts and variability of freshwater inflows have been reduced, resulting in chronic drought conditions for the Estuary. Flow conditions have been predominantly poor for the last 10 years, with the Freshwater Inflow Index at a record low level in 2010.
<b>HABITAT</b>			
Estuarine open water	Fair to poor	Deteriorating	Quantity and quality of springtime habitat is declining. Since the 1980s, habitat conditions have generally been poor in all but wet years.
Baylands	Fair	Improving	Historic decline has ended; gradual restoration underway; there is a long way to go.
Watersheds	Fair	No change	Watersheds are largely stabilizing after damage from historical land use changes; monitoring in more watersheds is needed to improve assessment of status.
<b>LIVING RESOURCES</b>			
Fish	Mixed, mostly fair	Deteriorating	Fish abundance and diversity are declining in all regions of the Bay except near the Golden Gate. The fish community is in poor condition in Suisun Bay.
Shrimp/Crab	Good	Improving	Most shrimp and crab populations are increasing, but ocean species dominate in the Bay. The abundance of Dungeness crab juveniles fluctuates widely, but Bay shrimp are generally stable.
Birds	Mixed, mostly fair	Trends mixed	Some populations are increasing, some are static, and some are declining, with some earlier increases recently reversed. Tidal marsh birds are below desired levels. Reproductive success is generally low or has decreased since 1993.
<b>ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES</b>			
Flood events	Poor	Deteriorating	Dams and water diversions have cut frequency and duration of floods by more than half, reducing freshwater inflow variability and transport of sediment and nutrients to the Bay.
Food web	Fair	Deteriorating	Declines in reproduction of fish-eating birds suggest that less food is available.
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>			
Individual/Community action	Fair	Improving	Active stewardship could be greater, but regional efforts appear to be increasing. Bay Area citizens are using water more efficiently, and we are gradually expanding our use of recycled water.
Management action (example)	Good	Improving	In-Bay disposal of dredged material has been greatly reduced since the Comprehensive Conservation and Management for the Estuary was adopted in 1993.

# Report released SOE Conference 2015

- Maintain structure of attributes
- Priority 1: Update existing indicators with current data
- Priority 2: Tweak indicators and benchmarks needing adjustment
- Priority 3: Add new indicators as needed

# Process

- Same as SOTB 2011
  - Lead Scientist / Project Manager
  - Review Committee
  - Peer Reviewers
  - Working with the Estuary Monitoring Workgroup to see where Delta indicators can be included

# New and Exciting

- More coverage of the Delta
  - Integrate condition report across the whole estuary (long-term goal)
  - Add more Delta indicators (for 2015)
- Invest in online communication products
  - Printable Executive Summary and Scorecard
  - Main Report Estuaries Portal or other home online
  - Technical background material and data online

# Resources

- Lead Scientist / Project Manager is funded
- Several contributing organizations providing updated indicator analyses without funding
- Seeking additional funding

# Thank You

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