



# Beyond Suisun – What Are We Missing?

## *Estuarine Ecology of Juvenile Salmonids*

May 22, 2012, 12:30-4:30pm

Ballroom B, Activities & Recreation Center (ARC), UC Davis

**John Largier** (convenor)  
UC Davis, Bodega Marine Laboratory

*Introduction and overview of west-coast estuary environments, including San Francisco Bay*

**Sean Hayes**  
NOAA, SW Fisheries Science Center

*Comparing salmon use of San Francisco Bay with other rivers/estuaries along the west coast*

**Charles “Si” Simenstad**  
University of Washington

*Estuarine food web linkages to salmon resilience*

**Jessica Miller**  
University of Oregon

*Juvenile Chinook salmon in estuaries and surf zones: observation, inference, and more questions*

**Bruce MacFarlane**  
NOAA, SW Fisheries Science Center

*Energy dynamics and growth of Central Valley juvenile Chinook salmon in estuarine phase and first ocean year*

**Stephanie Carlson**  
UC Berkeley

*Portfolio effects and salmon habitat: the importance of estuaries and the nearshore environment*

River and ocean waters mix in estuaries, yielding complex and productive aquatic environments. Estuaries are known to provide valuable habitat for many different taxa, including fish and specifically for juvenile salmonids. While there are many examples from other estuaries along the west coast, the focus of studies relating to Central Valley stocks has been on the uppermost estuary – primarily in the Delta and Suisun Bay. Far less attention has been given to lower estuary habitats seaward (westward) of Carquinez Strait, where the majority of the San Francisco Bay estuary is found.

The aim of this seminar is to question whether we are missing something critical for understanding and managing Central Valley stocks. Presentations will take a comparative approach, looking at juvenile salmonid ecology in other west coast estuaries with a view to identifying key issues in assessing the value and use of estuarine habitats in the San Francisco Bay estuary. This will be followed by a panel discussion focused on San Francisco Bay and management needs for information related to juvenile salmonid use of transitional waters between freshwater and ocean habitats (i.e., the middle and outer estuary, including the plume region immediately west of Golden Gate). We aim to capture key issues, unknowns, and opportunities for science to support management decisions.

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