

HATCHERY DELTA SMELT REQUEST PROCESS



BACKGROUND: WHAT IS THE CULTURE AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF SMELT (CASS) GROUP?

CASS is an interagency team created in 2019 to implement science-based management activities to secure and stabilize the Delta Smelt wild population through a coordinated captive propagation and supplementation program.

- Comprised of four agencies: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), and United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS)
- Priority actions include:
 - Secure a Delta Smelt refugial hatchery population that reflects the genetic diversity present in the wild population.
 - Establish guidance for prioritizing use of cultured Delta Smelt for research purposes to inform best management practices for use of cultured Delta Smelt in population supplementation.
 - Develop a comprehensive supplementation strategy to avoid extinction of Delta Smelt in the wild.
 - Coordinate Delta Smelt culture and population supplementation actions with on-going Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem restoration activities.

For the second priority action, CASS is charged with developing and implementing a cultured Delta Smelt fish request process that includes collaborative review and prioritization to provide *predictability for investigators* and *oversight of the use of this limited resource*.

PLANNING AHEAD: WHAT WILL FUTURE HATCHERY DELTA SMELT REQUESTS LOOK LIKE?

BROOD YEAR 2021: INTERIM FISH REQUESTS

For the 2021 year class, an **interim** fish request process with detailed instructions will be in place.

- Quarterly submittal window (**December 1, 2020 and March 1, 2021**)
- *One-step process*: submittal of full proposal to Tien-Chieh Hung (thung@ucdavis.edu).
- CASS will conduct a formal review and provide a letter stating Approval of the Request (if granted).

BROOD YEAR 2022: ANNUAL FISH REQUEST PROCESS

The CASS continues to refine an **annual** fish request process. For the 2022 year class:

- Solicitation will be sent out in the Spring of 2021 with a deadline of **June 1, 2021**
- CASS will conduct a formal review and provide approval needed for initiating the State and Federal permitting process.