

Fact sheet

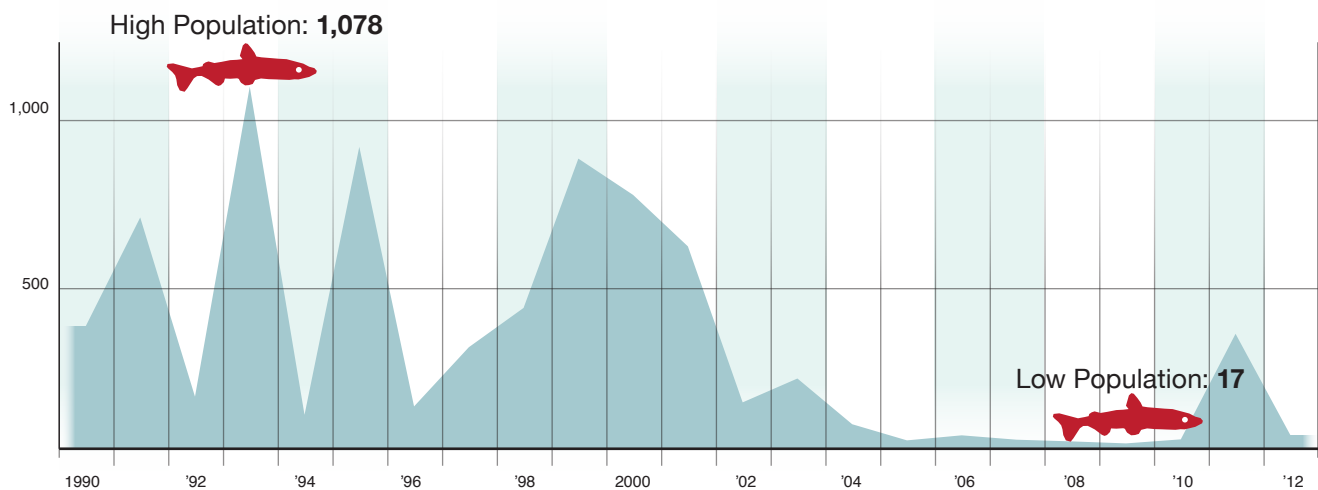


Photo: California Department of Water Resources

Delta Smelt Decline

Delta smelt are two-to-three-inch-long fish that live nowhere else but the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. They were listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act in 1993. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the four significant threats to the species are direct entrainment by state and federal water export facilities; summer and fall increases in salinity; summer and fall increases in water clarity; and effects from introduced species.

Delta Smelt Population Index: 1990-2012



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife trawls 122 places in the Bay and Delta each month from September through December and uses catch data from the fall midwater trawl survey to estimate the Delta smelt population.