

Meeting Goals

- Orient and establish the Benthic Work Group
- Evaluate spatial and temporal extent of benthic assemblages in SF Estuary and Delta
- Discuss options for benthic assessment methods where needed.

Background

- SWRCB adopted SQOs for Bays and Estuaries in 2008.
- Currently being used to regulate sediment condition.
- Methods for two California habitats detailed:
 - So. Calif. Bays
 - Polyhaline SF Bay
- Benthic LOE included four benthic indices:
 - RIVPACS
 - BRI
 - RBI
 - IBI
- The benthic LOE methods have been rigorously tested, validated, and published.

Benthic Work Group

Long-Term Goal

Review, revise, create benthic assessment methods for several SF Estuary and Delta assemblages.

- mesohaline (San Pablo -, South Bay)
- oligohaline (Suisun Bay)
- limnetic (Delta)

Current Needs

- Update our understanding of San Francisco Estuary and Delta benthic assemblage distribution in space and time.
- Review and revise mesohaline indices
 - 4 indices available
 - not rigorously validated
 - or, develop new index
- Develop Delta index(es)
- Develop Oligohaline index(es)