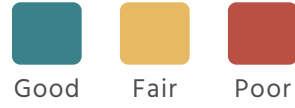




STATE OF OUR ESTUARY

STATUS



TREND



Indicator	Definition	Status & Trend	Indicator Highlight	Last Update
Clean Water				
Freshwater Flow	Amounts, timing, and variability of fresh water flowing into the Estuary compared to the flows that would have occurred without dams and water diversions	ESTUARY Fair, Declining	1/2 Freshwater flow to the Estuary has been reduced by nearly half.	2025
Safe for Aquatic Life	Concentrations of toxic pollutants in water and fish from the Bay	BAY Fair, No Change	Over a hundred pollutants are routinely monitored and some are found to exceed regulatory thresholds in fish, endangering the health of the food chain.	2025
Flourishing Wildlife				
Native Fish	Abundance, species diversity, species composition, and distribution of native fishes in the San Francisco Estuary	BAY DELTA Fair, Declining	Declines in native fish abundance and diversity are influenced by drought, reduced outflow, and poor recruitment for key species.	2025
Harbor Seals	Adult harbor seal abundance in the San Francisco Bay during the breeding season (under development)	BAY Fair, No Change	As of the 2015 update, harbor seal population numbers had not improved significantly since the 1970s.	2015
Ridgway's Rail	Ridgway's Rail population density in tidal marsh habitats of the San Francisco Bay (under development)	BAY Fair, Mixed	As of the 2015 update, the endangered California Ridgway's Rail population had declined to fewer than 1200, one fifth of the long-term goal for 5500 birds	2015
Shorebirds	Winter densities of migratory shorebirds in the San Francisco Bay	BAY Fair, Declining	Shorebirds are declining in the Bay and across the broader Pacific Flyway, but more monitoring is needed to disentangle the local versus regional causes.	2025
Tidal Marsh Birds	Breeding population density for three tidal marsh bird species in the San Francisco Bay	BAY Fair, Improving	The index of tidal marsh birds is increasing at a rate of 1% per year since 1996. Of the three bird species tracked, two showed an increase in population density.	2025
Waterfowl	Winter abundance for dabbling and diving ducks in the San Francisco Bay	BAY Fair, Mixed	Dabbling and diving ducks are thriving in some sub-regions of the Bay, but declining in others. One likely factor is different approaches to conserving pond habitat.	2025
Quality Habitat				
Eelgrass	Area of the most common type of native underwater plant in the San Francisco Bay (under development)	BAY Fair, Improving	1/3 In 2014, there were 2,790 acres of Eelgrass in the Bay, covering just 35% of potential habitat area.	2015
Open Water Habitat	Net downstream flows through the Delta and the presence of low-salinity habitat in Suisun and San Pablo Bays	BAY DELTA Fair, Declining	3 out of 10 Good-quality, low-salinity habitat in Suisun and San Pablo Bays has occurred in fewer than 3 of every ten years.	2025
Tidal Marsh	Extent of tidal marsh, including tidal marsh restoration projects, in the Estuary	BAY DELTA Fair, Improving	Target: 100,000 acres Progress: 58% As of 2024 there are nearly 57,800 acres of tidal marsh in the Bay, almost 58% of the regional 100,000 acre goal.	2025
Resilient Processes				
Beneficial Floods	Extent to which freshwater flows create seasonal floodplain habitat upstream of the Delta and low-salinity habitat in the Bay	BAY DELTA Fair, Declining	High-quality floodplain habitat conditions have occurred in just 6 out of 74 years.	2025
Migration Space	Amount of protected and undeveloped uplands where tidal habitats can shift inland as sea levels rise (under development)	ESTUARY Not Available	The 2015 report indicated that only a quarter of marsh migration space is undeveloped and protected.	2015
Soft Shores	Type and distribution of land cover along the shoreline, with undeveloped land ranked as softest	BAY DELTA Fair, Not Available	40% On a scale of 0-100%, the Bay scores a 38% and Delta-Suisun scores 43% (averaging to roughly 40% across the Estuary) on the softness of their shores, which helps the Estuary's shoreline be resilient to flood waters and rising seas.	2025
Subsided Lands	Land area in the Estuary that has sunk below historical elevation levels and land management practices that reverse or halt the subsidence process	BAY DELTA Fair, Not Available	380,000 acres 380,000 acres of land (about 43%) have subsided below tidal elevation in the Delta alone.	2025
Thriving Communities				
Safe for Eating	Concentrations of toxic contaminants (mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs) in fish from the Estuary	BAY DELTA Fair, No Change	Mercury and PCBs are of high concern in the Bay and have not declined in 30 years of monitoring.	2025
Safe for Swimming	Level of pathogens (microscopic organisms that can cause illness) in Estuary water	BAY Fair, No Change	22 of 30 (73%) of Bay beaches rated excellent (A+ or A grades) for summer water quality in 2023.	2025