

***EGERIA DENSA* CONTROL IN THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA**

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The California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) has been treating *Egeria densa* throughout the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) since 2001. The herbicide of choice for Egeria control in the Delta is fluridone (Sonar Aquatic Herbicide) based upon numerous environmental impact studies completed to meet Endangered Species Act requirements. Fluridone requires a contact time of six to twelve weeks for control of Egeria making treatment in a riverine delta system challenging. In the early years of the program, mainly small scattered sites were treated and with permit restrictions these treatments did not start until July. In 2006, permit modifications allowed treatment in some areas to begin in April. Treatment effectiveness improved dramatically. In 2007, armed with early start dates the program decided to try large regional type treatments. The area chosen was Franks Tract State Recreation Area in the Central Delta. The treated area was approximately 3000 acres. This was done over two consecutive seasons and was very successful. The Egeria control program has overcome many challenges related to endangered species, flow within the delta, agricultural irrigation intakes and understanding how to apply fluridone to sustain concentrations that will provide control. In the 2011 season we were again in Franks Tract and surrounding sloughs as well as the western portion of Discovery Bay. Preliminary results indicate a successful treatment. The Egeria program is poised for success and further progress once the Federal Permits are renewed this year.