

Benthic macroinvertebrate, food for fish



Another important reason to study BMI's health is that they are the food source for young salmon and other fish rearing in the streams that empty into the San Francisco Bay. Fish emerging from eggs in the tributaries live in the tributaries before they move to bay where they then become a food source for the San Francisco Bay fisheries. This is an example of the importance of stream health and its nexus with humans. Studying BMI's can tell us if our fresh water sources that are feeding the San Francisco Bay and its fisheries are in trouble and what we can do to restore health. BMI's can be compared to the 'canary in the mine'.

One of the truly exciting outcomes of our project is that the potential for salmon recovery in our watershed is real. There has been Steelhead fry found in many of the creeks where they were not known to exist. FONR conducted steelhead surveys that have recently documented these findings and informed resource agencies and other interested citizens. This information illustrates the importance of this critical habitat, and highlights the need to protect this critical resource in the Napa River watershed.