

**Victoria Poage, Senior Biologist for the San Francisco Bay – Delta Fish and Wildlife Office  
answers questions about the Longfin Smelt 12-month finding**

My name is Victoria Poage and I'm a senior biologist at the Bay-Delta Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**[Question 1] Explain the Service's 12-month finding for longfin smelt?**

The Service found after a thorough review of the best available scientific information that the Bay-Delta population of the longfin smelt warrants protection under the federal endangered species act. However at this point it's precluded by our need to address species of higher listing priority.

**[Question 2] What does "warranted, but precluded" mean?**

Warranted but precluded is a term that the service uses to indicate that a species warrants protection under ESA (Endangered Species Act) but is precluded from us actually drafting a listing rule by species that are of higher priority for listing. A DPS is a distinct population segment. Longfin smelt in the Bay-Delta are one of about 20 populations of longfin smelt that occur in rivers, estuaries, and lakes from the Bay-Delta all the way up to Alaska. But we're talking specifically about the population that lives in San Francisco Bay-Delta.

**[Question 3] The longfin smelt is already listed by the state of California. What would federal protection mean?**

The state and the federal statutes are pretty similar in a lot of ways, but the federal ESA also provides for what we call harm to the species which could potentially include the species habitat so that if the habitat is effected by a project the federal act could provide more protection. Also we will eventually provide for critical habitat designation under the federal act.