**Tracy Research Technical Report Abstract**

***Technical Bulletin 2010-2***
Reyes, René C. 2010. *Descriptions of the Early Life Stages of Three Common Ictalurids from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, California*. Tracy Technical Bulletin 2010-2. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region and Denver Technical Service Center. 51 pp.

Early life stages of white catfish (*Ameiurus catus*), black bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*), and channel catfish (Ictalurus punctatus) from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and surrounding watershed are described. Stages were enumerated following Armstrong and Child’s (1962) descriptions of brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*). Eggs were collected from fishes that were provided spawning material and allowed to spawn naturally. Black bullhead eggs were the smallest at 3.5 mm in diameter compared to white catfish and channel catfish (4.4 and 4.3 mm, respectively). Newly hatched yolk-sac larvae of channel catfish were the largest at 10 mm TL compared to white catfish and black bullhead (9 and 8.6 mm, respectively). Early life stages of three ictalurids were similar. Channel catfish early life stages were well-documented because of the species’ importance in aquaculture. However, egg and early life stages of black bullhead and white catfish were not as well-documented. (Updated January 29, 2013)