



Figure 3b. Otter trawl stations within the Bair Island Marsh Complex.

The sloughs surrounding Bair Island consist of Redwood Creek to the south/southeast, Smith Slough to the south/southwest, Steinberger Slough to the north/northwest, and the central South Bay channel to the east. The Redwood Creek channel is dredged to a depth of about 10 m for shipping. Though the position of the sloughs has not changed since 1857, building of levees and the creation of the Foster City development to the north halved the Steinberger Slough drainage, resulting in a decrease in current velocity and the gradual sedimentation of the slough. Though the slough remains unvegetated, Steinberger Slough and much of Corkscrew Slough are intertidal, with an average depth of ~0.5 m above mean low water (Philip Williams & Associates appendix A 2000). It is likely that the reconnection of former marsh habitat to Steinberger Slough will cause scouring and an increase in average depth. The remnants of earthen levees that were used to construct the salt ponds border Corkscrew, Smith, and Steinberger sloughs; however, Redwood Creek and the adjacent deepwater channel are bounded by mudflat.