

Lead Scientist's Report

Summary: This report covers 5 items:

Collaborative Science Activities: (1) Data Summit follow-up; (2) Delta Science Program review of the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT) Delta smelt study proposal; (3) A "Delta Challenges Workshop" scheduled for February 23-24 in downtown Sacramento;

Science Communication: (4) A National Science Foundation workshop titled "Science: Becoming the Messenger" for early February; and (5) "By the Numbers", a summary of current numbers relevant to Delta water and environmental management.

Collaborative Science Activities

Data Summit Follow-up

The draft vision document resulting from the Data Summit is still undergoing review by key agencies before being posted for public review. Staff from the Science Program held briefings in December and early January with key agency representatives, including the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and stakeholders.

CAMT Delta Smelt Studies Proposal Review

In November, the Science Program organized a panel of independent science experts to review a package of proposed Delta smelt entrainment investigations developed by the CAMT Delta Smelt Scoping Team. The peer review panel consisted of Dr. James Anderson, Dr. James Cowan, Dr. Nancy Monsen, Dr. Don Stevens, and Dr. Scott Wright. These panel members were selected for their expertise and reputation concerning fisheries ecology, population biology, hydrodynamics, environmental statistics, and sediment transport. The panel met in public on November 14, 2014. The panel's recommendations for improvements to the proposed studies are posted here: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/event-detail/11390>.

Delta Challenges Workshop

The Delta Science Program will hold a workshop to summarize the risks and challenges facing the management of the Bay-Delta system. These challenges include a multitude of stressors that threaten our ability to achieve the Delta Plan's coequal goals. Numerous reviews, workshops, publications, reports and articles describe the stressors and risks facing the contemporary Delta, but this information is spread across diverse publications, journal articles, and lengthy technical reports. The information has not yet been presented in a highly concise, readable way by an independent set of distinguished science experts. The purpose of this workshop is to develop a single concise, easy-to-understand summary of these challenges for use by policy-makers and the general public.

Science Communication

Science: Becoming the Messenger

The Delta Science Program will host a two-day National Science Foundation workshop (Feb. 10-11, 2015) titled "Science: Becoming the Messenger". This science communication workshop will equip participants with real-world skills and techniques to plan, create, and implement impactful, convincing science communications.

By the Numbers

Delta Science Program staff will give a summary of current numbers related to Delta water and environmental management. The summary (Attachment 1) will inform the Council of recent counts, measurements, and monitoring figures driving water and environmental management issues.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: By the Numbers Summary

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