



## Reporter Tip Sheet – Specific Items of Interest

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### Lost in Translation (State of Bay-Delta Science session)



**Time:** Wednesday, 11/16, 10:00-12:00, Room 307

**Contact Person:** Darcy Austin – Delta Science Program

**Synopsis:** Drafting water management for the Delta is one of the most complicated and contentious tasks facing policy-makers. Aside from accounting for the state mandated coequal goals of a reliable water supply for California and restoring the Delta ecosystem, policy-makers must also have a working knowledge of the way the Delta ecosystem works – including the “cause-and-effects” issues that alter its various habitats. Otherwise, creating policy can be near impossible, simply because the science used to clarify the current conclusions can be complicated. *The State of Bay-Delta Science (SBDS) 2016* is a collection of papers designed to assist with the knowledge gap. They are a synthesis of the current scientific understanding of the Delta, and emphasize the progress made on key research questions during the past decade and identify the remaining knowledge gaps. The papers also explore the policy implications of current science, and offer ways to improve the delivery of scientific information to policy-makers. This session will feature a ‘talk show’ format panel discussion between *SBDS* authors and policy-makers who are grappling with decisions in various chapter topics.

### Re-Envisioning the Delta with New Knowledge from the Past



**Time:** Tuesday, 11/15 1:35-3:15 p.m., Room 314

**Contact Person:** Letitia Grenier – SF Estuary Institute

**Synopsis:** Most everyone agrees that restoring the Delta to its historical conditions is not an option. Transforming it strategically, however, so the Delta is once again a resilient landscape that promotes a healthy and diverse ecosystem is the premise of *Delta Renewed*, a publication of the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI). During her session, Dr. Letitia Grenier, a senior scientist at SFEI and a principal author of the report, will elaborate on how studying the transformation of the Delta from the 1800s to present day, has provided her team with different strategies that, when brought together in an integrated way, will allow for the restoration of any particular ecosystem function of the Delta’s past. In essence her team is creating scientific blueprints for project managers and designers to assist them in the implementation of system-wide ecosystem restoration, rather than saving one species at a time. And, Dr. Grenier says, the strategies can be targeted, based on the size and complexity of the projects, so policy-makers can determine what restoration projects are necessary or warranted.

### Habitat Restoration and Conservation



**Time:** Tuesday, 11/15, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Room 308-310

**Contact Person:** Stacy Sherman – CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Synopsis:** A small fraction of the tidal wetlands that existed in the San Francisco Bay-Delta prior to the Gold Rush remain today. Restoration and conservation of these habitats is regarded as an increasingly important tool in improving the environment for native wildlife and fish populations. Understanding how native species respond to their environment is crucial to adaptively managing restoration sites and learning how to improve future restoration designs. Presenters in the “Habitat Restoration and Conservation” session will discuss insights into the habitat requirements and response to restoration of a variety of fish and wildlife species.

### Contaminant Issues in the Bay-Delta



**Time:** Thursday, 11/17, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Room 307

**Contact Person:** Richard Connon – University of California, Davis

**Synopsis:** This session is focused on the impact of contaminant inputs into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including toxic algal blooms, and pesticide use, effects and detection. Talks will encompass laboratory and field based studies, as well as incorporate evaluations on effluent discharge and surface water quality.

### Art at the Conference



**Time:** Throughout the conference, including a lunchtime panel discussion, Thursday, 11/17, 12:15-1:00 p.m., Room 308-310

**Contact Person:** Rosemary Hartman – CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Synopsis:** Increasingly, new methods of data visualization are being leveraged to communicate science between scientists, and between scientists and policy makers. In parallel, there is an increasing interest in using art for communicating scientific and environmental concepts with the public. We have paired artists with scientists to create joint projects on display in the exhibit hall, and host a panel discussion on “The Art of Data Visualization” (12:15-1:00 on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>). The artwork will range from photography of Delta wildlife, to stained glass invertebrates, to paintings of invasive species, to kites painted with native Delta fish.

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### **Assembling the Puzzle Pieces: Synthesis of Mercury Science in the SF Bay Delta and Beyond**



**Time:** Thursday, 11/17 1:00-3:00 p.m., Room 307

**Contact Person:** Yumiko Henneberry – Delta Science Program

**Synopsis:** Mercury is an ongoing water quality issue in the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region (Bay-Delta). Challenges remain in managing natural resources such as wetlands that are large mercury sources. This special session follows up on a series of workshops held in January and June 2016 where scientists came together to share and assess the scientific progress made in meeting the objectives outlined in the 2003 CALFED Mercury Strategy. This special session will provide an overview of the January and June workshops followed by presentations of new information related to mercury dynamics in the Bay-Delta. The goal is for these presentations to make the connection between newly acquired science and management decisions.

### **Climate, Drought and Water Management**



**Time:** Thursday, 11/17 1:00-3:00 p.m., Room 308-310

**Contact Person:** Mike Dettinger – US Geological Survey

**Synopsis:** Recent years in California have been notable for the extended 2012-present drought and for record-breaking warm temperatures. This session presents several perspectives on this drought, viewed from comparisons to historical droughts, water rights, socioeconomic impacts, and its unusual coastal warmth, along with new water-supply forecast methods.

### **Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Science & Management in a Changing Climate**



**Time:** Thursday, 11/17, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Room 306

**Contact Persons:** Jason Hassrick, ICF International  
Rachel Johnson, NOAA

**Synopsis:** Climate projections indicate the Central Valley will become warmer and drier with increased environmental variability, driving ecosystems into novel regimes. Aquatic ecosystems have experienced the strongest effects of California's current four-year drought. This session highlights current impacts of the drought, emerging science, and challenges and opportunities to managing for resiliency at multiple life stages. This session is timely given the current response of endangered winter-run Chinook salmon to the drought and ocean conditions as well as the national focus identifying winter run as a 'species in the spotlight' to move the needle in preventing extinction.

[http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/stories/2015/09/spotlight\\_chinook\\_salmon.html](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/stories/2015/09/spotlight_chinook_salmon.html)



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*"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."*

*– CA Water Code §85054*