

Lead Scientist's Report

Summary: This report presents four items, 1) the 2012 Delta Science Fellows Program, 2) Phase 2 of the Delta Science Program's Independent Science Panel Review of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Effects Analysis, 3) the latest issue of the Council supported online journal, *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, and 4) Upcoming Delta-related science events.

2012 Delta Science Fellows Program

In November 2011 the Council approved a contract to support a new class of Delta Science Program Fellows to support research directly relevant to the coequal goals of maintaining a reliable water supply and improving ecosystem health. The Delta Science Fellows Program brings together young scientists, agency scientists and senior research mentors in collaborative data analysis and research projects. In late February the Delta Science Fellows Program released its advanced notice for the 2012 Request for Applications (RFA) that identified priority research topic areas. Up to 11 predoctoral students and postdoctoral researchers will be awarded fellowships for proposals addressing 2012 priority topic areas identified in the Fifth Staff Draft Delta Plan:

- 1) A More Reliable Water Supply for California
- 2) Restore the Delta Ecosystem
- 3) Improve Water Quality to Protect Human Health and the Environment
- 4) Reduce Risk to People, Property, and State Interests in the Delta, and
- 5) Protect and Enhance the Unique Cultural, Recreational, Natural Resources, and Agricultural Values of the California Delta as an Evolving Place.

The RFA is scheduled for release in late March. The selection of fellows will take place during spring-summer 2012, with awards to selected fellows available in fall 2012. For the 2012 Class of Fellows, a greater emphasis will be placed on connecting the fellows with the Delta Science Program's activities along with integrating and synthesizing fellows' research. For more information about the Delta Science Fellows Program please visit: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program/fellows-program>

Independent Science Panel Review of the BDCP Effects Analysis – Phase 2

The Delta Science Program is coordinating a multi-phase independent scientific review of the Draft BDCP Effects Analysis chapter and associated appendices. The second phase of the review is scheduled for April 30 – May 1, 2012 and will cover the draft BDCP Chapter 5: Effects Analysis and associated appendices. This chapter summarizes the net effects of the preliminary project on listed species. The first phase of the review was held on October 25-26, 2011 and covered the first two draft BDCP Effects Analysis Appendices, Appendix A: Conceptual Foundation and Analytical Framework and Appendix B: Entrainment. More information on the BDCP Effects

Analysis Review – Phase 2 will be made available on the Delta Science Program’s web page: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program>

Latest Issues of *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*

The latest issue of the Council-sponsored online journal, *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* will be released in late March. To access the journal please visit: http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie_sfews

Upcoming Delta-related Science Events

30th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference

The Salmonid Restoration Federation will hold its 30th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference in Davis, California on April 4-7, 2012. The conference will focus on a broad range of salmonid and watershed restoration topics. The conference includes full-day workshops and field tours and technical, biological, and policy-related presentations. For more information please visit the conference web page: <http://www.calsalmon.org/conference/30th-annual-salmonid-restoration-conference>

**California Water and Ecosystem Monitoring Forum (CWEMF) Annual Meeting/
Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Annual Workshop**

CWEMF and the IEP will jointly host oral and poster presentations on April 18, 2012 as a part of their annual meetings at the Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom, California. CWEMF’s 18th Annual Meeting, themed, “From Headwaters to the Pacific: Modeling California’s Liquid Gold” will be held on April 16-18, 2012. On April 18-20, 2012, the IEP will hold its annual workshop to synthesize and communicate current understanding about the Bay-Delta ecosystem learned through IEP’s monitoring and research activities, including sessions on smelt life cycle models, modeling tools and the Fall Low Salinity Habitat (FLaSH) Studies. For more information please visit the meeting/workshop web pages:

CWEMF Annual Meeting: <http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/activities/workshop.cfm>
IEP Annual Workshop: <http://cwemf.org/Activities/annualmtg.htm>

7th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference

The Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference (formerly known as the CALFED Science Conference) will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center on October 16-18, 2012. This year’s conference theme is, “Ecosystem Reconciliation: Realities Facing the San Francisco Estuary.” The Plenary Session is scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, October 16, 2012. Confirmed plenary speakers for the 2012 conference include Peter Goodwin, Delta Science Program; Ellen Hanak, PPIC; Marcia McNutt, USGS; and Charles J. Vörösmarty, CUNY Environmental Crossroads Initiative. For more information about the 2012 Bay-Delta Science Conference please see the conference website: <http://scienceconf.deltacouncil.ca.gov/>

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