

## Lead Scientist's Report

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**Summary:** This report covers four items: 1) Highlights the December 2013 issue of *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science (SFEWS)* 2) An update on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Effect Analysis Review, 3) Initial feedback from the Long-term Operations Biological Opinions (LOBO) Review Panel, and 4) A summary of current numbers relevant to Delta water and environmental management.

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### **Latest issue of *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science***

Scheduled for release December 18, 2013, the latest issue of *SFEWS* contains three articles. An article by Dr. William Fleener and Dr. Fabian Bombardelli introduces a simplified Delta network model that performs quick multi-year simulations of sea level rise. Dr. Wim Kimmerer and others conducted a modeling study of the low-salinity zone as an indicator of fish habitat. The study finds that when salinity is used to define fish habitat, the expansion of that habitat due to flow increases is not a controlling influence on population size. Finally, Dr. Michael Mohr and Dr. William Satterthwaite examine the accuracy of Chinook salmon carcass surveys, one of the primary tools for counting returning adult salmon. The journal may be accessed at:

[http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie\\_sfews](http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie_sfews)

### **Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Effect Analysis Review**

The Delta Science Program is conducting an independent science panel review of the BDCP Effects Analysis. The Effects Analysis, a critical component of the BDCP, is intended to provide the best scientific assessment of the likely effects of BDCP actions on the species of concern and the ecological processes of the Bay-Delta system. An initial briefing for the panel is scheduled for December 18 and the Panel will meet for two days on January 28-29, 2014. Both events will be webcast, recorded and posted on the Delta Stewardship Council website. A list of the panel's members is attached. More information can be found at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-event/10163>

### **Annual Long-term Operations Biological Opinions (LOBO) Review**

On November 6-7, 2013, the Delta Science Program held the fourth LOBO Review. Required by the National Marine Fisheries Service's Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPA), this workshop reviewed operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project in water year 2013 to determine whether any measures prescribed in the RPA should be altered in light of information learned from the year's operations or research. The report will be available at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-event/9954>

### **By the Numbers**

A summary of current numbers related to Delta water and environmental management. The summary will inform the Council of recent counts, measurements and monitoring figures driving water and environmental management issues.

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1: List of BDCP Effects Analysis Review Panel Members

Attachment 2: By the Numbers Summary (*Handout at Meeting*)

### **Contacts**

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