

## Lead Scientist's Report

---

**Summary:** This report highlights two recent Delta Science Program events, the Bay-Delta Science Conference and the Delta Independent Science Board's inaugural meeting. This report also contains information about the Delta Science Fellows Program and a summary of the Lead Scientist's participation in the annual meeting of the Ecology and Civil Engineering Society of Japan.

---

### Recent Science Program Events

- **2010 Bay-Delta Science Conference**
  - The Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference was held September 27-29, 2010 at the Sacramento Convention Center.
  - The conference attracted 972 registered participants and hosted six plenary presentations, 246 oral presentations and 116 poster presentations.
  - Dr. Peter Moyle of UC Davis was awarded the Brown Nichols-Science Award in recognition of his significant scientific contributions in the San Francisco Estuary and watershed.
- **Delta Independent Science Board Inaugural Meeting**
  - The Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) held its inaugural meeting on September 30, 2010 and October 1, 2010.
  - The ISB received its charge from the Council. The board shows every indication that they will act independently and will be fully engaged in addressing Delta science-related issues.
  - The Delta ISB has received the Council's request to provide the Council with an evaluated list of other stressors as a follow-up to Assembly Member Jean Fuller's letter dated August 18, 2010. The Chair of the Delta ISB will follow up on this item orally as a part of the Delta ISB Chair's Report.

### Delta Science Fellows Program

- The Delta Science Program in conjunction with California Sea Grant has sponsored predoctoral and postdoctoral candidates since 2003. This long-standing program has helped to increase the scientific understanding of the Delta ecosystem over the duration of its existence.
- The aim of the science fellows program is to bring together junior scientists with Delta agency scientists and senior research mentors in collaborative data

analysis and research projects relevant to ecosystem management and water supply reliability questions.

- On September 24, 2010, the Delta Science Program along with California Sea Grant released a solicitation for its next cohort of science fellows.
- Over the two-year fellowship period the selected fellows will work closely with community mentors, present their research findings at a Bay-Delta Science Conference or a State of the Estuary Conference, provide annual and final reports to the Delta Science Program, and write up their findings for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

### **Ecology and Civil Engineering Society of Japan Annual Meeting**

The Ecology and Civil Engineering Society of Japan was formed to address flood protection and ecosystem concerns through the advancement of interdisciplinary science across ecology and civil engineering. Each year the Ecology and Civil Engineering Society of Japan invites an international keynote speaker to its annual meeting. Lead Scientist Cliff Dahm was this year's international keynote speaker and gave a keynote talk titled, "Perspectives on Restoring the California Delta." The overall theme of the meeting was "From the Forest to the Sea." Dr. Dahm also presented a second talk titled, "Three Decades of Stream Research: Past, Present, and Future" to graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and young faculty concerning his research on streams and rivers of the western United States.

A few highlights from the meeting:

- The Ecology and Civil Engineering Society of Japan was founded in 1997 to respond to the needs to protect people and property against floods as well as simultaneously improving the ecological integrity of rivers and floodplains (the Japanese equivalent of coequal goals).
- Japan has a land area roughly six-percent smaller than that of California with more than three times the population of California. Japanese rivers are short (<370 km), steep, and flashy with annual flood damage the highest for any country worldwide. Japanese rivers have a rich freshwater fauna and flora, and Japanese human populations concentrate on the alluvial plains of these rivers.
- River and wetland restoration is a major enterprise in Japan. Over 30,000 river restoration projects have been carried out over the past two decades, and restoration has become a major investment for improving Japanese rivers. The focus for restoration in northern Japan is on improving conditions for native salmonids.

### **Contact**

Dr. Cliff Dahm  
Lead Scientist

Phone: (916) 445-0463