

Summary of Delta island inundation history:

US Army Corps of Engineers in their 2006 report to Congress noted 31 Delta island breeches or inundation; DWR in their 2006 report to the California Legislature counted 58 Delta island inundations and DWR, in their 2008 DRMS study says there were 158 Delta Island levee failures and island inundation.

However, if one looks at the details of DRMS, the report included and counts islands not located within the legal Delta region. By including islands not located within the legal Delta region, the means and averages of the report were also skewed and are wrong. DRMS includes islands of the Suisun Bay, and islands more associated with the cities of Fairfield and Suisun.

In addition, since island names changed from one physical location to another over the last 150 years, specific historical data regarding the islands, when being assessed for levee stability, must be carefully gathered. As noted, there are two Ryer Islands in Solano County; one of the Ryer Islands in 1850 was actually two islands called Sutter and Schoolhouse. When it was combined into one island by the 1870's called Ryer, a different location became Sutter Island. There were Taylor and Tyler islands, with Taylor Island later renamed to Grand. There is Long Point Island, outside the Delta in the Suisun Bay, that was in 1981 renamed Ryer Island according to USGS documentation. The data from both Ryer Islands appear to have been combined into one for the DRMS study, which resulted in false reporting of island history for the Ryer Island located in the Delta. Specifically, Ryer Island north of Rio Vista flooded in 1904 and 1907, before the current levees were built. After the levees were improved as part of the federal water project of the 1930's, Ryer Island did not flood. DRMS maps and data say Ryer Island flooded "3-5 times" in last 100 years, clearly a substantially incorrect assessment.

For more than 18 months DWR representatives have been aware of this important confusion of Delta vs Suisun Bay island inundation history, and have assured me it will be corrected, but no date has been provided. There are hundreds of examples of how incorrect data of DRMS is being quoted and propagated; and each of those studies are wrong because they restate wrong data. (See Island Inundation history spreadsheet from May meeting)