

Delta Independent Science Board: Recent Accomplishments and Current Activities

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April 30, 2020



Statutory Role

- 85280. “...provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management in the Delta through periodic reviews of each of those programs....”
- Review programs by themes and specific science documents (e.g., Delta Science Plan)
- Thematic reviews presented to the Council:
 - 1) Restoration (2013)
 - 2) Fish and Flows (2015)
 - 3) Adaptive Management (2016)
 - 4) Levees (2016)
 - 5) Delta as an Evolving Place (2017)
 - 6) Water Quality (2018)
 - 7) Interagency Ecological Program (2019)

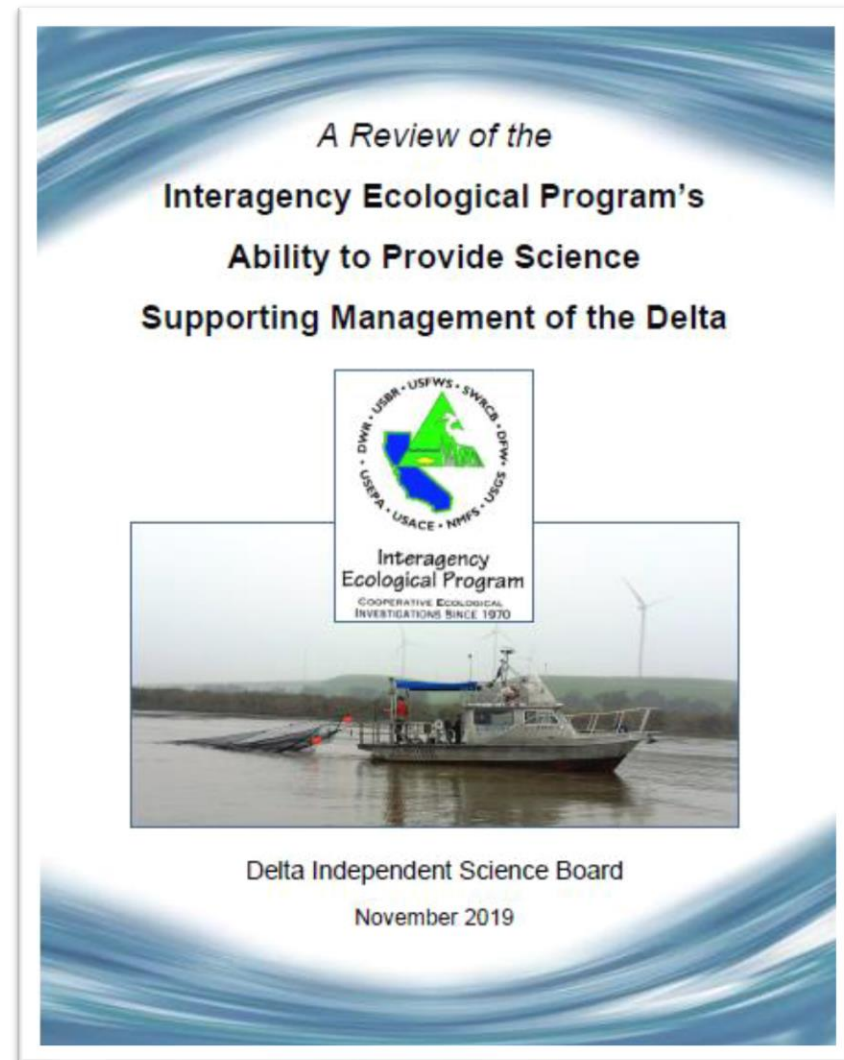
Recent Activities: Since August 2019

1. Completion of the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Review – **Nov 2019**
2. Completion of the Initial Phase on the Monitoring Enterprise Review – **March 2020**
3. Delta Science on Rapid Change Panel Discussions – **April 2020**
4. Letter to DWR on Notice of Preparation – **April 2020**



1. IEP Review – Outreach Phase

- Working with IEP leadership to implement recommendations
- Poster for IEP Workshop (meeting materials)



2. Monitoring Enterprise Review (1)

- The Delta ISB is assessing how well monitoring programs are meeting the information needs of management agencies.
- **Component 1** - development of a comprehensive inventory of monitoring programs in the Delta by a contractor under the direction of the Delta ISB. (handout in meeting materials)

2. Monitoring Enterprise Review (2)

Next Step: Component 2

Findings and recommendations based on information collected in the inventory and other information collected for the review



3. Delta Science During Rapid Environmental Change (1)

- Delta ISB reviewed early drafts of the 2019 Delta Science Plan – State’s overall portfolio of science and technical activities for the Delta is substantial and useful.
- Scientific enterprise must become **better organized and accelerate efforts to address rapid environmental change** (e.g., climate change, new invasive species, and the decline of native species).
- The Delta ISB – letter to DPIIC suggesting Science Needs Assessment (DPIIC endorsed).
- To help inform the Science Needs Assessment, the Delta ISB explored the implications of rapid environmental change on Delta science.

3. Delta Science During Rapid Environmental Change (2)

Activities:

- Preparation of a draft discussion paper (Fall 2019)
- Panel discussion with leading experts from across the United States (January 2020)
- Memo that was submitted to the Council and Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) – April 2020 (see meeting materials)

Conclusions:

- Delta science and management need to employ existing methodologies and develop new ones for looking ahead to anticipate changes and thresholds

4. DWR Letter on the Delta Conveyance Project

- As part of its legislative mandate, the Delta ISB provided consultation to DWR on BDCP/California WaterFix and provided comments on the EIR/S to the Council and CDFW
- Plans to review the EIR for the Delta Conveyance Project
- Submitted letter as part of the comment period for the NOP.
 - Invited DWR to a meeting of the Delta ISB
 - Shared highlights from the 2017 review of the California WaterFix EIR/S (e.g. adaptive management, scientific information, communication, uncertainties and risk)

Upcoming Activities

- Completing current reviews on monitoring, non-native species, and water supply reliability
- Delta ISB Membership Change
 - Dr. Joy Zedler leaves at the beginning of June 2020
 - The original five Delta ISB members leave at the end of August 2020

Questions?

