

Draft 2026 Delta Science Plan: Table of Contents

November 7, 2025

Letter from the Delta lead scientist

Acknowledgements

Suggested citation

Executive summary

The Delta Science Plan: What it is and why we need it

One Delta, One Science, and the Delta Science Strategy

Progress since 2019: What has been achieved so far?

How is this update different?

Grand challenges framework and action development

Grand challenge 1: Scientists and managers must anticipate a world in which environmental conditions and regulations may be fundamentally different from those faced today.

Grand challenge 2: Environmental change is outpacing the traditional pace of science

Grand challenge 3: Flows of scientific information remain decentralized and poorly connected to communities and decision makers

Grand challenge 4: Other ways of knowing, especially Traditional Knowledge, remain siloed from decision-making

Looking forward

References

Glossary

Appendix A: Implementation successes: Status of 2019 Science Plan and Relevant Outcomes

Appendix B: Process to update the Delta Science Plan

Resource A: Data governance, portals, and online resources

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Resource B: Making science whole: Embedding social science in natural science workflows

Resource C: Science communication

Resource D: Research funding

Resource E: Conflict of interest process for reviewers, advisors, and applicants

Resource F: Science governance and the collaborative Delta science-scape

Resource G: Processes for independent scientific review and scientific advice

Resource H: Guidance for science workshops