

To: Delta Council ISB deltacouncilisb@deltacouncil.ca.gov

Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 9:28 AM

From: Steve Culberson steve.culberson@deltacouncil.ca.gov

Subject: Delta Food web review prospectus

Regarding the subject and the following document:

“Exploring scientific and management implications of upper trophic level interactions in Delta food-webs An assessment of the scientific needs to improve management actions Delta Independent Science Board Draft Prospectus April 20, 2023”

I would like to add three items for your consideration in addition to what is listed in the draft prospectus:

- 1) Please consider including the various IEP Food Web/diet studies performed over the years and the associated datasets as part of the review materials and research prospectus (I/we can help you identify datasets and PIs to include in your discussions as needed);
- 2) Please contact the USGS (if you haven't already) concerning previous published and unpublished data and interpretations they have conducted pertaining to stable isotope characterization of “who eats whom” in the SF Estuary. My general understanding is that there is some data mining that could be profitable using existing datasets from Kendall et al., and other projects that have preliminarily explored food web interactions as revealed by stable isotope-based research and monitoring;
- 3) A question for your consideration regarding scope and approach: Will this review help quell the “blame game” over why smelts and other native fishes are in decline, or will it exasperate existing tensions over “what and who is to blame” for those declines?

Regards,

Steve



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