

**From:** Bashevkin, Sam@Waterboards <[Sam.Bashevkin@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Sam.Bashevkin@Waterboards.ca.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024 11:47 AM

**To:** Delta Council ISB <[DeltaCouncilISB@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:DeltaCouncilISB@deltacouncil.ca.gov)>

## **Subject: Delta ISB Food-webs Review feedback**

Dear Delta Independent Science Board,

I attended the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) food webs workshop last year on upper trophic food webs in the Delta. A major conclusion of that workshop was that it is not possible to model or study the effect of upper trophic levels on food webs in the Delta without information on the abundance and distribution of these upper trophic levels. A major gap in the current monitoring enterprise is large fishes, since the monitoring surveys of the Interagency Ecological Program focus on smaller fishes or the smaller early life stages of larger fishes (e.g., Striped Bass). Other possible predators such as birds and marine mammals are also not monitored as far as I am aware, or if they are, these monitoring efforts are not coordinated or integrated with the Interagency Ecological Program. In reading the draft Delta ISB food webs review, I did not find this monitoring gap highlighted. A review of upper trophic level food webs in the Delta should highlight this major information gap that impedes scientific and management progress on food web management and should contain recommendations for filling the gap. It is not possible to understand the scientific and management implications of upper trophic level food webs in the Delta without information on the abundance and distribution of these upper trophic levels. I would be happy to provide additional information on this monitoring gap or possible solutions to the Delta ISB or its staff.

Thank you,

Sam Bashevkin

Sam Bashevkin, Ph.D. (he/him)  
Environmental Program Manager  
Bay-Delta Branch  
Division of Water Rights  
State Water Resources Control Board  
[Sam.Bashevkin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Sam.Bashevkin@waterboards.ca.gov)  
916-319-9387