

Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team

Fourth Quarter Meeting

Tuesday November 8, 2022; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

[Teams meeting link](#)

Action Items

- Action items here

Attendees

- Rachel Wigginton, Delta Conservancy
 - Expertise: wetland ecology, restoration ecology, invasive species, and science communication
- Elizabeth Brusati, CDFW Invasive Species Program
 - Expertise: wetland ecology, estuarine ecology, invasive plant and aquatic quagga/zebra mussel prevention plans
- Ben Weise, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
 - Expertise: weed management, getting rid of blackberry
- Gina Darin, CA Dept of Water Resources
 - Expertise: invasive plants, restoration, nutria
- Sally Rudd, Compass Resource Management, Consultant for Collaborative Science Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP)'s Delta Smelt Structured Decision-Making Project
 - Expertise: decision analysis for environmental planning
- Mary Maret, Sacramento County Dept of Regional Parks & Sac WMA chairperson
 - Expertise: botany, restoration, weed warrior vs. red sesbania, American River Parkway and riparian ecology
- Ashley Fossett, Boating and Waterways, Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Program
 - Expertise: marine ecology, GIS mapping, invasive sp mitigation, submersed IAV
- Jason W Carter, Boating and Waterways Aquatic Invasive Species Program
 - Expertise: botany, submersed aq veg
- Dean Kelch, CA Dept of Food and Agriculture
 - Expertise: systematic botany and genomics, invasive species, mapping, environmental compliance, regulations
- Jonathan Thomson, CA State Lands Commission Marine Inv Sp Program
 - Expertise: invasive species prevention on vessels, aquatic inv sp, inv species control and HACCP
- Martha Volkoff, CDFW Invasive Species Program

- Expertise: fisheries management, invasive species management, policy, and application, networking with western state coordinators and Federal partners
- Trevor Fox, Delta Conservancy
 - Expertise: invert physiology and ecology with pollinators and invasive mosquito species
- Linda Pinfold, San Joaquin Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Notes

1. Welcome and Announcements

- a. Welcome to all, especially new attendees, reviewed DIISC Framework ([web link](#)), asked everyone to introduce themselves with their expertise, captured in the team roster ([web link](#))
- b. 2023 DIISCT meeting dates – Feb 14, May 9, Aug 8, and Nov 14, let Rachel know if there are schedule conflicts
- c. CISAC update (CA Invasive Species Advisory Committee advises the Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC)):

http://www.iscc.ca.gov/cisac_meetings.html

- i. Last quarterly meeting was October 25, discussed upcoming RFP and elected new leadership for 2023 (Ted Groshoz, Chair; Shannon Lynch, Vice Chair; Tom Smith, Secretary; Martha Volkoff, Past chair), and 2023 quarterly meetings (Jan 24, Apr 18, July 25, Oct 24)
 - ii. Developing RFP for \$5M in state funding for invasive species projects, next RFP Development Subcommittee meeting is November 14
 - iii. ISCC meeting tentatively scheduled for Nov 29. CISAC will bring forward RFP proposal for approval, previous projects proposed for funding \$5M for review and approval (including statewide AIS surveys), and acceptance of revised charters and bylaws.
- d. DIISCT Research Needs Table (snapshot attached to meeting invite)
 - i. Table was last updated in 2018, several projects were proposed and funded from this table, so a worthwhile effort.
 - ii. Leadership team is dusting off the DIISC Team Research Needs Table considering potential funding sources from CISAC.

- iii. If you're interested in helping update and provide input into the table, please reach out to Rachel W. to join the leadership team in updating
- e. Mary Maret – found alligator weed and spongeplant on American River Parkway, sent samples and notified CDFA, in touch with Michael Cane, Floating Aquatic Veg Program at DBW. Spongeplant in isolated pond and Mary is organizing a volunteer day Nov 19.

2. “Estimating benefits of aquatic weed control for Delta Smelt and understanding possible methods and costs,” Sally Rudd, Compass Resource Management

- a. Collaborative Science and MP, collaborative science programs and NGOs, Delta smelt is a priority species. Started a Structured Decision Making Project for Delta Smelt. Aquatic weed control is one management action of 14 actions being considered.
- b. Aquatic Weed Control concept is to open water access, zooplankton composition and abundance, and increased turbidity for the benefit of Delta smelt. Looking like single most beneficial action to benefit Delta smelt based on population growth model increases.
- c. Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy study by DBW and DWR in 2017-2018 concluded fluridone application did not effectively control SAV to the point where benefits to Delta smelt would be realized. Other methods in literature include physical controls and biological controls.
- d. Currently looking to bin management actions into expected feasibility, so burning question now is “how feasible is it to clear aquatic weeds in the Cache Slough Complex?” Please share information with Sally: srudd@compassrm.com
- e. Discussion:
 - i. Gina – limited tool options to DBW when original DSRS aquatic weed control study happened, new BiOp now so may have more tools and increased feasibility category. Jason – Demonstration Investigation Zone small-scale studies to test control methods for efficacy to then be

considered for larger program work, for example endothall. Will connect with Sally offline to coordinate with DBW management.

- ii. Rachel – is there data to help understand at what level of weed reduction do we see positive response in fish populations? Sally, considering a linear relationship for now.
- iii. Dean – be sure to consider environmental compliance in feasibility when implementing at scale, so any new tools will be subject to CEQA, CESA, ESA, and NPDES coverage. New renewal of statewide NPDES for herbicide application.

3. “What are the most important high risk invasive species that could enter California? A commodity-based approach,” Dean Kelch, CA Department of Food and Agriculture

- a. CDFA Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services has an active pest prevention system for insects, including early detection surveys and rapid response quarantines.
- b. Spotted Lanternfly, may be facilitated by host tree-of-heaven, but also attacks grapevines and broad range of native woody plants, a huge concern for California agriculture, and CDFA is anticipating its arrival and gearing up
- c. Shot Hole Borer, attacks many trees, including native trees, and kills them by bringing in fungus, very difficult to find and control, interagency collaborations as impacts effect agriculture, natural resources, fire fuels.
- d. Mediterranean Oak Borer, attacks native oaks, trying to delimit infestation
- e. We tend to be reactive because new pests are coming up often. How to predict pests? No existing list even for multi-million ag commodities. One approach to help pare down potential invasive pest species is “commodity-based approach.” Testing approach on almond trees. Could consider commodity to be to Delta keystone species and main high-value assets like Delta smelt or restoration revegetation stock like oaks.
- f. Discussion:

- i. Ashley – using pheromone traps to track shot hole borer? Dean, no lure yet for these species. Even if did have lure, would have to spend money to find it, but not a worthwhile investment because we don't have a control for it.
- ii. Mary – how to keep A-rated weeds out of the state from the aquarium trade, Craigslist, Etsy, private sellers? Dean, sometimes County Ag sends inspectors to aquarium stores, but staffing resource shortage. Recommend asking CISAC to prioritize prevention pathways. Dog teams may find plant material coming through the mail, but again, exceedingly expensive. Occasionally monitor eBay and large sites selling noxious species in California. Maybe a community scientist program via iNaturalist could help.
- iii. Rachel – Horizon Scanning effort led by USFWS looking for new invasive species, we'll ask Cesar to present a status update.

4. Agency Round Robin

- a. Delta Conservancy –
 - i. Hiring for new Senior ES Supervisor to assist in grant, including invasive species projects no doubt,
<https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=337821>
 - ii. Board meeting: <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/board-meeting-materials/>
- b. CDFW Invasive Species Program
 - i. October wrapped up nerodia field season in Roseville (no captures for third year in row) and Folsom (46 snakes removed), goal is eradication so nerodia don't outcompete giant garter snakes
 - ii. Finished update to AIS Decontamination Manual, includes fieldwork cleaning methods,

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=43333&inline>,

interested in input for future revisions

- c. Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
 - i. Managing DWR mitigation properties with Solano and Yolo RCDs
 - ii. Sprayed Himalayan blackberry when not windy, checking on efficacy next week. Looking forward to poison hemlock treatment season.
- d. CA Dept of Water Resources
 - i. Cal-IPC Symposium Sponsor and 18 DWR attendees
 - ii. DWR Blacklock Phrag study wrap-up and planning for full-scale implementation to begin next treatment season
 - iii. DWR's UAV Team is helping DBW monitor ribbonweed spread and treatment efficacy using
 - iv. DWR Nutria Team is standing by to help the CDFW Nutria Eradication Program staff with the nutria discovered on Sherman Island in late October.
- e. Sacramento County Dept of Regional Parks & Sac WMA chairperson
 - i. Discovered alligator weed and spongeplant, working on decontamination procedures including a water truck, looking for pool noodles and kiddie pools off season and advice on not spreading spongeplant around
- f. Boating and Waterways Aquatic Invasive Species Program
 - i. FAV: Openings coming soon for two Environmental Scientist positions in FAV and quagga mussels. FAV program had successful implementation of two DIZs to operationalize tank mixes and drones as treatment methods. Continuing monitoring using photo point and point intercept methods. FAV working with NASA to improve knowledge of FAV growth
 - ii. SAV Team: successfully treated 89 sites with herbicides this year, mostly using systemic herbicide fluridone, and incorporating diquat (contact herbicide) and DIZ for endothall. Prioritizing areas where boaters use the

most. Created mobile app for public to communicate priority areas to DBW. Airboat training helps access shallow areas.

- g. CDFA – no Delta updates
- h. CA State Lands Commission – no update
- i. San Joaquin Agricultural Commissioner’s Office – Getting toward end of pest treatment season and continue to survey for invasive weeds. Next year expanding to include tree-of-heaven out of concern for spotted lanternfly. Inspecting packages and shipments at FedEx and UPS every day, looking for aquatic plants and invertebrates.

5. Wrap-up, Next Meeting, and Action Items