

## Delta Invasive Species Symposium 2023

### Making Connections: Understanding Connectivity in an Invaded Estuary

#### Background:

The Delta Invasive Species Symposium (Symposium) is a forum for Delta managers, researchers, and decision-makers to meet, share and synthesize information, and communicate best practices and lessons learned. The Symposium will take place at the California Natural Resources Agency building in Sacramento, and talks will be streamed for an online audience via Zoom. The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team plans and facilitates the biennial Symposium.

The 2023 Symposium will focus on connectivity with an emphasis on making ecological, social, and decision-making connections. The goal of making these connections is to increase effectiveness and reduce barriers to the control and management of invasive species. The role of ecological connectivity is a major theme in the study of biological invasions and is particularly relevant in the Delta, which connects uplands to the estuary, species and nutrients among ecosystems, and water to people. The 2023 Delta Invasive Species Symposium seeks to explore how we can harness connections among habitats, landscapes, agencies, researchers, and local communities to prevent, detect, manage, and control invasive species.

#### Relevance:

The 2023 Symposium's theme responds to several initiatives, guidance documents, and recommendations statewide and within the Delta that call for more interdisciplinary and inclusive work on invasive species. In 2022, the California Natural Resources Agency released the [Pathways to 30x30](#) document, which is a strategy for conserving 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030. Invasive species concerns are raised throughout the document, with a call to action to connect habitats, ecosystems, communities, and management directives. The [2022 Science Action Agenda](#) highlights the need for research on management and control of invasive species, particularly ecosystem engineers such as aquatic vegetation and clams, and connects these needs to key policy objectives from the [Delta Plan](#). The [2021 Delta Independent Science Board report](#) on Invasive Species recommended, "a more ecosystem-level, forward-looking, integrated approach to non-native species science in the Delta with specific consideration of climate change."

#### Goals for the 2023 Invasive Species Symposium:

1. Strengthen science-management interface among decision-makers, practitioners, community members, and scientists.
2. Highlight the role of connectivity when controlling and managing invasive species in estuaries, both the Delta and other systems.
3. Explore opportunities to connect the public to the process of controlling and managing invasive species.