

2023 Delta Invasive Species Symposium

Making Connections: Understanding Connectivity in an Invaded Estuary

Hosted by the [Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team](#)

November 30, 2023, 8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Presentations will focus on how connections within and among estuaries impact invasive species movement, how connectivity of different types can both help and hinder invasive species control, and how making connections among disciplines, policies, and actors is critical to effective invasive species management.

PRELIMINARY Agenda

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening

This session will welcome attendees to the Symposium and set out the goals and objectives of the Symposium.

9:15 a.m. Session One: Connectivity within and among Estuaries

This session will highlight stories of connectivity from across the Bay-Delta and other estuaries. The Bay-Delta Estuary is hydraulically connected to both upstream riverine and downstream estuarine and saline habitats. The Delta is the convergence of California's two major river systems, and invasive species in these upstream watersheds are connected to the Delta by downstream flow. Similarly, the Delta and Suisun Marsh connect the Delta to its downstream bay and ocean neighbors, where water exchange occurs in both directions with tides. Finally, non-native species can move among estuaries by various means.

10:50 a.m. Session Two: Connecting Research, Management, and Policy

This session will highlight how making connections among researchers, policies, and community members can aid invasive species management. Not only is the Delta a unique ecosystem, but it is also a place where communities, agriculture, and commerce connect with the environment. Invasive species are often seen as an ecosystem issue for science to solve, but their influence also has cultural, social, and economic impacts. Additionally, law and policy have direct connections with what management actions can take place and over what timeframes.

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Session Three: Lightning Talks

This session will highlight invasive species work through short, contributed talks.

2:45 p.m. Session 4: Challenges and Advantages of Connectivity

This session will highlight the different roles connectivity can play in managing invasive species across the Delta and Suisun Marsh. When is connectivity a friend and when is it a foe? Connections support ecosystems and help maintain native species assemblages, but connections can also increase the spread of invasive species and create conditions that allow non-native species to thrive.

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<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/diisc-team-activities/>