

Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team Second Quarter Meeting

Tuesday May 9, 2023; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Attendees

- Rachel Wigginton, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- Trevor Fox, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- Gina Darin, California Department of Water Resources
- Anthony Elias-Linarez, California Department of Water Resources
- Elizabeth Brusati, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Martha Volkoff, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- David Kratville, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Jose Martinez, California State Parks – Division of Boating and Waterways
- Jeffrey Caudill, California State Parks – Division of Boating and Waterways
- Edward Hard, California State Parks – Division of Boating and Waterways
- Trish Gilbert, California State Parks – Division of Boating and Waterways
- Lydia Kenison, California State Parks – Division of Boating and Waterways
- Kirsten Pringle, Delta Protection Commission
- Virginia Gardiner, Delta Protection Commission
- Jonathan Thompson, State Lands Commission
- Mary Maret, Sacramento County Regional Parks and Sacramento Weed Management Area
- Rachael Klopfenstein, Delta Stewardship Council
- Ted Grosholz, UC Davis

Notes

Welcome and Announcements

- DIISC Intro and Purpose (<http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/about-the-diisc/>).
 - The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team was formed in 2013 to foster communication and collaboration among California state agencies, federal agencies, research and conservation groups, and other stakeholders that detect, prevent, and manage invasive species and restore invaded habitats in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. We approach this purpose through three major avenues: Exchange of information like what we will do today in our Agency round robin, identification and prioritization of management and research needs, and by leveraging funding sources to address emerging concerns in the Delta.

- Delta Invasive Species Symposium happening at the end of the calendar year; please reach out to Rachel W. to join the planning committee.
- California Invasive Species Action Week coming up June 3-11, annual event coordinated by CDFW including local events all around the state, including a [webinar](#) with CNRA Secretary Crowfoot and CDFA Secretary Ross. Send events to Elizabeth B. to get on the calendar. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Action-Week>
- Cal-IPC Symposium in Chico (and hybrid virtual) in October; Call for Abstracts due June 15, <https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/>
- USEPA Wetland Grant, RFP coming soon, linked to Wetland Program Plan (new plan coming soon), if you have projects that might fit, keep eye out for RFP, funds coming in first quarter of 2024

Agency Round Robin

- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
 - [DIISCT Website](#) updated, added section where could see last 4 quarters of team meeting notes
 - Rachel presented to CISAC about DIISC Team, went well, generated lots of discussion on how we're moving forward in our region on wildland invaders
 - Recent Prop 1 grant funding cycle funded projects focused on removing invasive species in Little Franks Tract and Ulatis Creek
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Working on coordinating California Invasive Species Action Week
 - *Nerodia* water snake eradication program ongoing
 - Surveying for New Zealand mudsnails statewide, more information needed for management and policy
 - Kicking off quagga and zebra mussel monitoring statewide for the year
- California Department of Water Resources
 - Fish Restoration Program, just did Pest Control Advisor site visits to the constructed restoration sites and working on getting our long-term vegetation management program going
 - Blacklock *Phragmites* Control, hoping for starting full-scale implementation this fall
 - DWR *Nutria* Team supports the CDFW *Nutria* Eradication Team, especially now that *nutria* have been found in the Delta
 - Ribbon Weed (presentation later in the agenda)
 - UAV Team for Division of Integrated Science and Engineering, purchasing new drones for vegetation mapping capabilities, will be good for mapping invasive species

- Delta Stewardship Council
 - Work related to ribbon weed (presentation later in the agenda)
 - Preparing for next proposal/solicitation notice for Delta Science Program, releasing draft notice later this summer, framed around Science Action Agenda
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
 - Confirmation \$10M encumbered for Weed Management Area grants and research and oversight. Forming the oversight committee to administer those grants
 - Not yet received the aquatic weed survey funds from California Invasive Species Advisory Committee
 - Hiring new ES for working on hydrilla out of Sacramento, coming soon
 - Bob Price retired, CDFA hiring botanist to help with plant identification and policy coming soon
- California State Parks – Division of Boating and Waterways
 - Started treatment season this month due to high flows and restrictions (2 months later than usual), and hope for less water hyacinth due to flushing out into more saline water
 - Entered contract to conduct mechanical harvesting and treat with herbicides, including UAV spraying, which improves access and staff availability, starting in July
- Delta Protection Commission
 - No updates
- State Lands Commission, [Marine Invasive Program](#)
 - Continuing sampling vessels to see how well discharge is meeting performance stands for organism concentrations in Port of West Sacramento or Port of Stockton for prevention of introduction of new invasive species via ballast water
 - Team members [requested a presentation from SLC](#) on this topic at a future meeting
- Sacramento County WMA
 - Next quarterly meeting in June. Spring meeting was a field trip to Cosumnes River Preserve
 - Found alligatorweed and spongeplant on American River Parkway last October, got contract to spray spongeplant in May, not convinced will be able to eradicate it from the pond, open to advice from the DIISCT

- UC Davis, Cooperative Extension
 - Completing European green crab national management plan, draft is out for public review, will be a model for other plans
 - CISAC will have statewide tours in NorCal, Central, and SoCal, busloads of people looking at invasive species issues, Request input for in Delta, what would your top places be to see?

State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways Update

- PPT attached to follow-up email to DIISCT and available upon request to Rachel W.
- 2022 DIZ on UAV Herbicide Spray Trials
- Advantages:
 - Use less herbicide
 - Uniform herbicide treatment
 - Treating areas inaccessible by boats
 - Could be used to open the waterway for conventional boat treatments
 - Works well on Uruguay water primrose
- Disadvantages:
 - More expensive, and imagery processing comes at additional cost
 - Access always a challenge
 - Biomonitoring
 - More wait time from recharging the drone batteries between flights
 - Issue with overriding flight paths, and other logistics to work out

Ribbon Weed (*Vallisneria australis*) Briefings

- DWR – Status update & UAV Mapping
 - PPT attached to follow-up email to DIISCT and available upon request to Rachel W.
 - Concerned about spread of patches in high boat traffic areas
 - Tested UAVs as tools for monitoring, imaged all known patches
 - Did identify new patches from the drone flight imagery
- DBW – Treatment
 - DBW keeping map of observations throughout Delta (map attached to follow-up email to DIISCT and available upon request to Rachel W.)
 - Contracted with UCD for herbicide trials, paper in preparation. Endothall (chemical name) was the best product. Aquathol K (brand name) comes in liquid and pellet form.
 - DIZ completed using Aquathol K in the Delta, fluridone isn't working well
 - Hoping to get to 4 ribbon weed sites (circled on map) treated this year, and monitor how well will work
 - Potential to use bubble curtains around small patches of ribbon weed to help contain herbicide longer to improve treatment efficacy

- The Old Sac location will be a possible bubble curtain in Old Sac, but logistically will be a massive challenge, Send your ideas for this site. The Old Sac site is indicative that either it got started by a propeller or came from upstream. We need surveillance upstream of the I street bridge.
 - This Old Sac site would be a great opportunity to establish a public outreach effort about dumping pets. Perhaps the City of Sacramento would be open to a partnership to go along with in-water removal efforts?
- Christine Whitcraft – DSP, Directed Action (grant funding)
 - Christine Whitcraft, wetland ecologist with Cal State University Long Beach, funded to work with DIISC Team, DWR, and DBW to think about EDRR in the Delta, using ribbon weed as a case study to test our Delta EDRR Framework
 - Working with interested and affected parties on updating the Framework, including bottleneck socioecological and economic issues (example, community resistance to using herbicides). Just started in April, will schedule interviews in next month, fieldwork this fall, and will conclude the project (and grant funding) within 1.5 years.

California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) update

- PPT attached to follow-up email to DIISC and available upon request to Rachel W.
- Received \$5M, allocated by CISAC and approved by ISCC
- Almost received \$5M more for an RFP, but didn't get allocated in time and was taken back by Dept of Finance, and partners are working to get that funding back.
- Working to create an EDRR Fund.
- Currently funded Projects from original \$5M in various stages of implementation:
 - Invasive Species Summit hosted at Capitol
 - Invasive Species Tours (North, Central/Delta, and SoCal)
 - CISAC operational funding
 - Living list and pathway prioritization (on CISAC website)
 - Invasive shot hole borer projects
 - *Volutaria* project in Borrego Springs
 - Statewide AIS Surveys
 - Yellow starthistle biocontrol
 - PlantRight project
 - *Caulerpa prolifera* project in Newport Bay

Wrap-up, Next Meeting, and Action Items

- Thanks, all, for participating!!!
- Next DIISC Team Meeting is Aug 8, 10am-noon
- Action Items:
 - All, reach out to Rachel to be a part of invasive species symposium planning team or provide feedback on theme

- All, send CISAW events to Elizabeth to get on the calendar.
- Rachel W. will request presentation from Jonathan on SLC ballast water/prevention program and what they're finding in ships at Port of West Sac and Port of Stockton
- David Kratville will share updated contact info for Delta-area Weed Management Area coordinators with Rachel W. to add to the DIISC Team Roster.
- All, keep an eye out for invasive species in the Delta while you're out in the field or recreating, and report new sightings of ribbon weed to DBW and nutria to CDFW Invasives Hotline
- All, get on CISAC's mailing list: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/subscriptions/> (scroll down and check the CISAC box under "Plant Health") and send Ted ideas for where you'd like the tour to stop in the Delta to see invasive species issues (remember we'll be in coach busses).