

Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team

Second Quarter Meeting

Tuesday May 21, 2024; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Attendees

- Rachel Wigginton, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- Lauren Damon, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- Gina Darin, Department of Water Resources
- Elizabeth Brusati, Delta Stewardship Council
- Omar Luna, San Joaquin Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- Matthew Lai, CA Dept of Food and Ag
- Derek Medina, CA Dept of food and Ag
- Virginia Gardiner, Delta Protection Commission
- Gabriel Chan, Contra Costa Dept of Ag
- Julie Gonzalez, SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Jeffrey Caudill, Ca State Parks
- Jonathan Thompson, State Lands-Marine Invasive Species Program
- Jessica Vollmer, CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife – Nutria Eradication
- Eddie Hart, CA State Parks
- Thomas Jabusch, CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife – Invasive Species Program
- Elizabeth Davis, Solano Resource Conservation District
- Rachael Klopfenstein, Delta Stewardship Council
- Cesar Blanco, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Julie Anne Gonzalez, San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Notes

Welcome and Announcements

- Introductions, review history and mission of DIISC team
- Gina – CISAC (CA invasive species advisory committee) - meets quarterly to advise the Invasive Species Council of CA (sec of ag and sec of resources plus others)
 - Recommendation: use a portion of the \$5 mil allocation to fund a rapid response emergency fund
 - Approved and now live! <https://www.iscc.ca.gov/links.html>
 - Can apply now, application is reviewed within 10 days, and money is quickly available
 - Working on another legislative tours to explain invasive species management, Delta will likely be featured
 - Desire for Invasive Species Summit at the Capitol – planning has started
 - Recommendation: Aquatic invasive species surveys
 - Project is staffing up and surveys should start this year
- Invasive Species Action Week: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Action-Week>

Impacts, Risks, and Management of Invasive Aquatic Vegetation (IAV) in Tidal Wetland Restoration Projects

- Elizabeth – this presentation was given to the DPIIC (Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee: 18 state and federal agencies, coordination only, no regulatory auth) and CISAC
- Invasive species management and restoration are closely tied and required adaptive management
- White paper – Critical Needs for Control of Invasive Aquatic Vegetation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (2020)
 - Recommendations for control of invasive weeds
- Types of invasive aquatic veg (IAV): Floating, Submersed, and emergent (e.g., Phragmites)
- Data indicates IAV is expanding, and some (water primrose/*Ludwigia*) can invade existing marsh habitat
- IAV control is restoration
- DBW Aquatic Invasive Plant control Program (AIPCP)
 - Treat up to 15,000 acres of IAV annually and 10 species – budget: \$5.3 million
 - Increased flexibility and authorization for new tools: drones
 - Can work directly with CDFW to determine what species are invasive (previously required legislative action)
 - Demonstration Investigation Zones (DIZ) allow testing in small areas
 - e.g., new herbicides, bubble curtains, benthic mats
- ASK: DIISC Team working group to develop and draft product to present at August team meeting
 - Guidance for IAV control planning at tidal wetland restoration sites
 - Volunteers: Julie Anne Gonzalez, Gina Darin, Elizabeth Brusati, Virginia Gardiner,

Agency Round Robin

- CDFW – Jessica (nutria eradication program), Thomas (invasive species program)
 - Nutria have been detected in Fresno County above Friant dam and Millerton Lake
 - These areas are their focus
 - Nutria also at Grizzly and Sherman islands
 - Invasive species action week is coming up June 1-9, youth art contest winners will be announced soon, lunchtime talks 12-1 PM (link above in announcements)
 - Cosumnes River Preserve volunteer days, American River Parkway Arundo removal June 3
- DWR – Gina
 - Drone use for herbicide application
 - Detected ribbon weed at Winter Island
- DSC – Elizabeth, Rachael
 - <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/nutria-pocket-guide>
 - Letter of Intent for Research awards due May 28, full proposal due in August (if LOI is accepted)
 - Research to address topics in science action agenda, specifically a significant social science component
 - <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/research-awards>
 - Science Fellowship: <https://caseagrants.ucsd.edu/funding/2025-delta-science-fellowship>

- SSJDC – Rachel, Lauren
 - Will be participating in Invasive Species Action Week
 - Updates on Ulatis Creek, Little Franks Tract, Staten Island, and Webb Tract
- State Parks DBW – Jeff, Eddie
 - Will be controlling vegetation in Tom Payne slough
 - Receiving funds from CDFW to control weeds outside of legal Delta to support nutria eradication
- SJ Ag Commissioner's Office – Omar
 - Deputy Commissioner overseeing pest prevention efforts
 - Found a Japanese knotweed seller on Facebook
 - New dog team to support detection at terminals
- CDFA – Matthew, Derek
- DPC – Virginia
 - Nothing to report
- SLC Invasive Sp. Program – Jonathan
 - Working on biannual report
 - Asking for feedback on impacts (costs) of invasive species
 - Amanda Bowles from DSC
 - Participated in first round of rapid response need
 - <https://www.fws.gov/story/rapid-response-fund-aquatic-invasive-species>
- CCC Department of Ag – Gabriel
 - Mexican spot Weed in El Sobrante
- SF Bay NERR – Julie
 - Coordinating with CDFW to get them access to their site for nutria
- USFWS – Cesar
 - Had to leave before round robin

Research Needs Table Update

- DIISC maintains a list of research topics that are relevant to invasives in Delta and Suisun
- Last update was 2018, want to revise it again
- Two projects have been funded from the list so far
- Want team to rank each topic based on matrix

Wrap-up, Next Meeting, and Action Items

- Next meeting: Aug 20, 10-noon
- Email Rachel W to volunteer for IAV guidance working group
- Spread the word about Invasive Species Action Week!