

Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team

2025 First Quarter Meeting

Wednesday February 19, 2025; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Meeting notes for the last eight quarters can be found at the bottom of this webpage, <https://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/diisc-team-activities/>, and older notes are available upon request.

Attendees

- Rachel Wigginton, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- Anji Shakya, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- Elizabeth Brusati, Delta Stewardship Council (DSC)
- Rachael Klopfenstein, DSC
- Thomas Jabusch, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Jessica Vollmer, CDFW
- Gina Darin, California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Nicholas Rasmussen, DWR
- Jeffrey Caudill, CA State Parks (Parks)
- Patricia Gilbert, Parks
- Edward Hard, Parks
- Aaron Haiman, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)
- Trevor Fox, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
- Chris, CDFA
- Virginia Gardiner, Delta Protection Commission (DPC)
- Elizabeth Davis, Solano Resource Conservation District (Solano RCD)
- Jonathan Thompson, State Lands Commission (SLC)
- Gabriel Chan, Contra Costa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- Christina Craft, Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- Robert Pelletier, San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- Rod Saiki, San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- Cesar Blanco, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Jens Beets, US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Julie Gonzalez, SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (SF NERR)
- Edwin Grosholz, University of California Davis (UCD)
- Aaron Angel, The Freshwater Trust
- Charlotte Marks, Westervelt Ecological Services
- Matt, Westervelt Ecological Services
- Angela, Westervelt Ecological Services
- Bella Andersen, Westervelt Ecological Services

Notes

Welcome, announcements, and updates

- Background on the DIISC Team was provided, followed by an overview of the meeting goals
- Team member announcements:
 - DIISC Team working group developing Quick-Start Guide for Tidal Wetland IAV management is meeting again. Working to have a first draft by end of February. Hoping to have something for the whole team to review later in the spring. The working group is exploring making this into a page on our website or using StoryMaps. If you want to participate, email Elizabeth or Rachel. Elizabeth.Brusati@deltacouncil.ca.gov; Rachel.Wigginton@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
 - National Invasive Species Awareness Week is next week! They are presenting webinars throughout the week. (Note that times listed are in Central Time Zone 2 hours ahead of us). <https://naisma.org/programs/nisaw/>
 - Cal-IPC Symposium will be in person in Ventura, Nov. 12-15. Registration is open. <https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/>
 - North American Invasive Species Management Association is holding their annual conference at Harrah's Lake Tahoe in Stateline, NV, Nov. 3-6. <https://naisma.org/programs/2025-annual-conference/>
 - CDFA Weed Management Area Grants Program is accepting applications through February 28. Still time to submit for grant funds, statewide, non-competitive grant. https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/IPC/encycloweedia/encycloweedia_hp.html
 - Next month is the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting in Sacramento - some DIISC members will be presenting. <https://wapms.org/2025-Conference-Registration>

Policy updates: CISAC, AB 2509, Prop 4

- CISAC:
 - Prop 4 passed = Climate Bond, Thanks to Cal-IPC Advocacy, CISAC received \$20M
 - Madeline Drake, CNRA Assistant Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat, presented on 30x30 to CISAC on Jan 15
 - Next Meeting March 20, 10am-2pm, at CDFA and online
 - Invasive Species Council of CA (ISCC), CA Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC): <https://www.iscc.ca.gov/cisac.html>
 - Click "Join CISAC Listserv" to register for CISAC Updates
- Cal-IPC's Call to Support AB 2509: <https://www.cal-ipc.org/solutions/policy/state/ab2509/>
- CNRA Building Climate Resilience page addresses climate bond. Link to sign up for Climate Bond (Prop 4) briefings: <https://resources.ca.gov/initiatives/building-climate-resilience>

Siren: The National Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Information System

- Federal website compiling invasive species and especially EDRR resources, including species maps, risk assessments, eDNA information.
- First phase was released last fall; second phase in progress with more resources including a planning template, Project Portal for collaboration, policy page with information from all states.
- Elizabeth will stay in touch with its progress and update DIISC later in the year. Siren has five years of funding through bipartisan infrastructure bill; unknown if new federal administration has affected funding.
- Useful links
 - <https://siren.fort.usgs.gov/home>
 - <https://siren.fort.usgs.gov/respond>
 - <https://siren.fort.usgs.gov/species-table>
 - <https://siren.fort.usgs.gov/static-page/planning-template>
- Question: What are they planning to do in phase 2?
 - Response: Finish EDRR plan template, increase eDNA resources, include links to detailed data, add a page that pulls together invasive species data in each state (collaboration with Virginia Tech), horizon scanning/risk assessment

Golden mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*) update and potential DIISC Team role

- Presentation of updates since the last presentation to DIISC in November
- The Stockton Yacht Club marina manager found logs covered with golden mussel on their property. They were picked up by CDFW for making educational displays.
- Lake Berryessa has started their quarantine program – requiring a 30-day quarantine of boats intending to launch. Other water managers have followed suit, e.g. Turlock, Nevada Irrigation District (several reservoirs in Sierra), etc.
- In December, GM added to the restricted species list, there is a process in place to make permanent. This makes it illegal to transport live GM in the state, enforceable.
- Multiagency GM task force effort in process of developing a response plan, expected mid-March. Intended to capture the current actions underway as well as what is needed and not being done.
- Updated map of detections to date: Big Break; all over South Delta; in parts of the State Water Project – O'Neill Reservoir, Merced County; Bethany Reservoir, first after water project exit going south; positive eDNA results in Aqueduct. DWR reanalyzed older samples, eDNA evidence found as far back as spring 2023 from Aqueduct. Also, in the State and Federal fish facilities.
- In southern CA, GM sighting was actually *Xenostrobus securis*, another invasive. There may be some evidence in San Gabriel River. These are a brackish water mussel from Australia and New Zealand with potential for Suisun Bay.
- An analysis of water quality data for suitable water bodies for GM around the state shows that in the Delta, much of the area could be suitable. GM have a wide range of calcium tolerance; salinity may be an issue farther west.
- Multi-agency task force:
 - How is it organized? There is a steering committee. Structured in teams: the response plan development team is made of the leaders of all other teams. Other teams include

communications, monitoring, containment, education and outreach, funding, policy, partnership (potential for DIISC involvement).

- Highlighting the needs:
 - Education/outreach by engaging constituents such as ag, duck clubs, boaters, etc.
 - Containment: we need local help to install and staff watercraft inspection, decontamination. Promotion of rental boating industry, which would encourage local boats to prevent spread.
 - Monitoring: need for community science and increased study of population trends in the Delta.
 - Partners: needed to engage local agencies; ag community needs information assistance to those irrigating their lands in the Delta.
 - Science and capacity building: especially related to economic analysis, studying the population in the Delta and impacts on the ecosystem and restoration.
- Question: What is the current state of density of GM detected? Is there a way to reflect density on the map? (not just presence/absence).
 - Answer: It is not feasible for the capacity of the current task force. Task force compiles presence/absence data tracking the extent of the mussel population in the Delta. Nobody is studying population in the Delta. Task force potentially has the expertise, but not the capacity.
- Question: Previous talks have indicated that winter temperatures may halt the spread of GM. Is that still the current sense?
 - Answer: It appears that way, but we don't know. Still unclear what their specific temperature tolerances are. These are all good questions, but we need capacity and resources to investigate further.
 - Encouraged DIISC Team members with leads on funding or other outlets to make connections to fill these capacity gaps.
- State Lands Commission comment: Identified a gap in regulations which did not require an exchange and treatment for vessels coming in discharging at fresh/brackish water port. Presenting emergency regulation next week with a traditional regulatory package to follow.
 - Call to action for involvement by the DIISC Team regarding the response plan and capturing the activities and actions to be prioritized.
- Question: What is the current funding picture looking like?
 - Answer: Currently there are fewer resources than before due to vacancy sweeps.
 - In terms of Federal funding, \$600,000 was moved to the Western Region that Pacific States would manage – remaining funds are frozen, part of the bipartisan infrastructure funding. Contingent on Prop 4 money, potential for CISAC funds.
- Today's presentation highlighted gaps that the DIISC can fill. We can create a working group, maybe community engagement, to coordinate with task force.
 - Recommendation to leverage GM coordination with existing programs.
 - Encourage collaboration within DIISC team regarding funding opportunities, etc.

- CDFW has printouts regarding invasive mussels. Encouraged to distribute at any Delta events and get materials out to agencies, public, etc. [Materials are available online](#) for self-printing or via email.

2025 Delta Invasive Species Symposium

- Forming planning committee, contact Anji to join: Anjali.Shakya@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
- Previously at UC Davis or CNRA with recordings available online
- 70 people attended 2023
- Menti polls – poll results attached, and notes reflect major takeaways and group comments during discussion
 - Format: Most prefer hybrid
 - Hybrid is a pain to organize but is more inclusive
 - Presentation styles:
 - Q about lightning talks and Q&A – last time we did a combined question period for all presenters at the end
 - Topics/Themes:
 - Has prioritization or triage been a covered topic/theme? - Has been included in talks but not a primary theme
 - Including efforts to broaden participation and inclusion in invasive species control would be a good addition/theme.
 - Feedback or things to do differently
 - Need a lunch/refreshments sponsor
 - Onsite lunch helps facilitate networking
 - Scheduling conflicts Nov/Dec
 - CA RCD Conference Nov
 - Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov
 - Cal-IPC Nov
 - NAISMA Nov
 - State of Estuary Oct 27-29

Agency round robin

- SSJDC: Rachel, Anji
 - Working with CCCRCD on invasive plant control in upland areas at Little Franks Tract.
- DWR: Gina, Nick
 - Fish Restoration Program: We received the USFWS BO for Blacklock Phragmites Control and Revegetation project. We will be spraying Section 1 (of 3). Have NPDES coverage and PCA Recs and will increase weed management efforts on all DWR FRP Restoration Sites this year in partnership with DBW Aquatic Weed Control program, Suisun RCD, and Delta contractor (bid walk is early March)
 - Nutria: Working to update risk assessment to DWR infrastructure (levees, restoration sites, etc.). Supporting CDFW's Nutria Eradication Program, including attending a meeting with U.S. Rep. Harder (CA 9th) at Sherman Island to advocate for federal funding for the CDFW eradication effort.

- Next IEP Aquatic Vegetation Project Work Team meeting, March 13, 1-3 pm, fully virtual, contact Nick Rasmussen (nicholas.rasmussen@water.ca.gov) for more info
- DSC: Elizabeth, Rachael
 - Tidal wetland quick start guide to managing aquatic vegetation, contact Elizabeth for more information (elizabeth.brusati@deltacouncil.ca.gov)
- CDFW: Thomas, Jessica
 - Nutria eradication team: Site visit with Rep. Harder for potential federal assistance. Mass mailer for permit requests for new areas around the Delta for potential dispersal corridors and known perimeter of infestation. Hoping to surround the known area and to contain. Currently trapping at Dutch Slough, Sherman Island, Grizzly Island, Hill Slough Wildlife Area, Napa Sonoma marsh surveys – no confirmed detections. Scat detector dogs are in CA at Sherman Island. Will start evaluating acoustic monitoring.
- Parks: Jeff, Eddie, Patricia
 - Completed 2024 treatment season. Added drone treatment to provide resources not had before. With CDFW in Merced/Fresno, treatment appears to be successful, planning to continue in coming year.
 - Looking to get Section 7 compliance, need federal nexus. Transition to new federal action agency to support. Will continue with tools that don't involve take.
 - In 2025 season, looking into fluoridone and contact herbicides. Fluoridone is not as useful in Delta as systemic herbicides but used due to tidal dilution and flows. NASA data sentinel satellite data to identify floating aquatic vegetation.
- WCB: Aaron
 - No updates
- CDFA: Trevor, Chris
 - Looking to formulate a committee that represents agricultural, forestry, and pest management efforts to oversee and provide input on WMA grant program funding.
 - Hydrilla operations going well, no more detections in Clear Lake, no new in Nevada County.
- DPC: Virginia
 - DPC Executive Director and Blake Roberts lobbied in DC for National Heritage Area, advocated for funding re: invasive species work.
- SLC: Jonathan
 - AIS Prevention Workshop, March 27, virtual webinar.
- Solano RCD: Elizabeth
 - Absent
- Contra Costa County Ag: Gabriel
 - Efforts to control purple star thistle and artichoke are underway. Chinese mitten crab intercepted – turned over to Fish and Game.
- Alameda County Ag: Christina
 - Continued management of invasives on range and wild lands; artichoke and purple star thistle efforts.

- San Joaquin County Ag: Robert, Rod
 - Hiring for detection program, currently using a dog team at terminals, they will move to post offices
- USDA: Jens
 - Planned work for Stinkwort, Ludwigia, Water stargrass, crop pests, etc., is expected to be greatly reduced moving forward
- USFWS: Cesar
 - No updates
- NERR: Julie
 - Absent for round robin
- UC Davis: Ted
 - Absent for round robin
- The Freshwater Trust: Aaron
 - No updates
- Westervelt Ecological Services: Charlotte, Matt, Angela, Bella
 - No updates

Wrap-up and action items

- Next Meeting: May 21, 2025; 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Email Anji to join the Symposium planning team
- Email Elizabeth or Rachel to join the Tidal Wetland IAV guidance working group