

Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team

Second Quarter Meeting

Wednesday, May 21, 2025; 10:00am - 12:00pm

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

Attendees

- Rachel Wigginton, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy)
- Anji Shakya, Delta Conservancy
- Elizabeth Brusati, Delta Stewardship Council (DSC)
- Hollis Jones, DSC
- Gina Darin, Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Nicholas Rasmussen, DWR
- Thomas Jabusch, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Virginia Gardiner, Delta Protection Commission (DPC)
- Jonathan Thompson, California State Lands Commission (SLC)
- Chris Scianni, SLC
- Trevor Fox, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
- Jeffrey Caudill, State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW)
- Edward Hard, State Parks DBW
- Gabriel Chan, Contra Costa Agriculture Department
- Priscilla Yeane, Solano County Agriculture Department
- Jens Beets, US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA ARS)
- Cesar Blanco, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Julie Gonzalez, SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (SF NERR)
- Aaron Angel, The Freshwater Trust

Notes

Welcome and announcements

- Introduce co-chairs
- Preview agenda
- Overview DIISC Team framework and purpose
- DIISC webpage is being updated
 - Contact Rachel Wigginton if your logo is not on the website and provide a high-resolution photo

- As part of the interagency golden mussel response, the Outreach and Education team is requesting feedback on an outreach flyer
 - Provide feedback by Friday (5/23/25)
- California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) has \$20 million in Prop 4 funds – discussing which project types to prioritize, highlighting those that result in capital assets.
 - Contact or attend meetings with project ideas
 - Invasive Species Council of CA (ISCC), CISAC: <https://www.iscc.ca.gov/cisac.html>
 - Tentatively scheduled statewide invasive species summit for Jan 13-14, 2026 in Sacramento
 - Next meeting being held on June 12, all are welcome to listen in: https://www.iscc.ca.gov/cisac_meetings.html
- Invasive Species Action week June 7-15, 2025.
 - <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Action-Week>
 - Coordinate with your agency to participate
 - Lunchtime talk series via Zoom – [one will highlight golden mussel](#)

2025 Delta Invasive Species Symposium update

- Tentative date: 12/4/25
- Tentative location: California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) headquarters
- Theme: Forecasting/modeling
 - Tried to bring in several of the topics that were highlighted at the Feb DIISCT meeting: climate change, horizon scanning, impacts of new invaders (e.g. golden mussel)
- Speaker suggestions from DIISC Team Members
 - Cesar thought someone on the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) leadership team could be a good speaker
 - Horizon Scanning – Heidi Himes USFWS
 - <https://iris.fws.gov/APPS/ServCat/DownloadFile/232356>
- Modeling work DSC has funded on various fish (e.g. Reorienting to Recovery, etc.).
- Finding ways to “reframe” climate change to help federal agencies be able to participate/present, but they will have to be careful about titles/abstracts/sessions
 - “future environmental conditions”
- Menti Feedback
 - What ideas do you have for potential session topics that fall under the theme of forecasting/modeling?
 - Golden Mussel
 - Interactions between climate change and invasions by new species
 - Projecting ecological impacts of recent invasions (golden mussel others)

- Results of USFWS Horizon scanning
- Modeling golden mussel spread based on habitat suitability
- How can we do more with less (i.e. less money and fewer federal partners)?
- Technology – LiDAR drone flight use
- Cooperative work to maximize funding
- What ideas do you have for potential session topics that fall under the theme of forecasting/modeling?
 - Where to look for nutria?
 - Expansion of existing invaders and new invaders based on potential changes
 - Interactions with climate change and existing species and their potential expansion and adaptations
 - Cal-IPC's climate modeling range changes for Delta weeds
 - Prioritizing directed funding for highest level urgencies for specific Delta economic concerns – especially urban vs. rural, ag, recreation, etc.
 - IEP food web modeling group might have invasive species relevant results
 - Interagency partnerships for invasive species management to streamline efforts and conserve resources
- Suggestions for potential speakers (include affiliation and topic if known)
 - Recommend a call for presenters
 - NAISMA Christie Millhouse
 - IEP project work team members?
 - DIISCT agencies on what they need
 - Christine Whitcraft's EDRR study (relates to improving future EDRR efforts)
- We're looking for a catchy title – ideas?
 - Bowling with a crystal ball
 - What's the direction of the Delta?
 - Imagining the future Delta
 - Imagine a future Delta (w/ AI-generated image)
 - Forecasting and Modeling Invasive Species to Support a Resilient Delta Future
- How do you believe your agency/organization could benefit most from a symposium focused on forecasting/modeling?
 - Relating information to improved habitat restoration
 - Thinking about how to allocate current funding to support potential future conditions
 - Relating to adaptive management

- Thinking about additional species that could invade the Delta/Suisun
- Potentially helping to focus future prioritizing of limited staff time and supporting analysis of project impacts
- Interactions with modeling in progress for native fish, etc.
- Help leveraging/coordinating efforts for best control/management
- Management implications
- Hearing from researchers and management implications
- Bridging restoration focus with other uses in the Delta (e.g. recreation, navigation, water delivery)
- Hearing what other agencies need for eDNA tools

IAV guidance update

- Team is developing a quick start guide that will have summaries of key points and links to more comprehensive documents
- In webpage format, which is more easily updated than a PDF
- The draft is available for comment
 - Submit comments to Elizbeth by June 6
- Also working on a one-page fact sheet that summarizes the guide
- Hope to have a near final draft at the next quarterly DIISC Team meeting
- Comment: Consider the Caulerpa infestation of Newport Bay and San Diego Bay; they are implementing barriers to stop the spread.

Golden mussel response plan update

PowerPoint slides available upon request.

- A high-level steering committee with teams working on specific aspects of the framework:
 - Communications
 - Media – consistent messaging; develop media plan
 - Outreach and Education Plan – developing materials
 - Containment at infested waters
 - Prevent movement of infested watercraft and equipment
 - Prevention at uninfested waters
 - Individual WID programs
 - Statewide WID coordination – define standards, train and certify inspectors with a certification program, there's a need for a network of service providers to supplement water manager program – currently lacking capacity, common data platform, quality assurance
 - Monitoring
 - Early detection
 - eDNA efforts

- Population trends and expansion in the Delta
- Partner engagement
 - Focused on information sharing with two sub-teams: water managers; science/researchers
- Population suppression
- Science Capacity Building
 - Implement priority research
 - Maintain a list of research needs while considering current capacity and limitations
- Detections to date through March – in Kings County, Sacramento County and Kern County

California ballast water regulations and the golden mussel

PowerPoint slides available upon request.

- Comments:
 - There is info telling us that GM can withstand periods of marine salinities
 - Source ocean water is treated during intake, discharged water is salty ballast water. Some may survive, but fresh and brackish organisms will undergo osmotic stress and will be further eliminated by treatment.
 - What are the consequences for vessels with violations?
 - Bad press, potential financial penalties. The Coast Guard has the ability to dictate what vessels can/cannot do, not SLC.
 - Is there any legal pursuit to go after vessels presumed to bring in the GM?
 - We will not definitively know which vessel it was. We need to have a record of non-compliance.

Agency round robin

- SSJDC
 - Next Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 28 – will update on Prop 4 funding; a nutria update can be found within the Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Grant Program Update
- DSC
 - None
- DWR
 - USDA nutria detection dogs were in the Delta last week
 - DWR Fish Restoration Program has recently restored 800 acres of habitat along with partners
 - DWR genetics team working on a rapid assessment to test whether Phragmites is native or non-native
 - Next Aquatic Vegetation PWT meeting is on June 5, 1-3pm

- CDFW
 - None
- SLC
 - Link to programs homepage for data/reports: <https://www.slc.ca.gov/misp/>
- CDFA
 - Weed Management Area Grant Program; awardees of \$120,000 will be announced July 1
 - Solicitation for \$2 million on invasive weeds is forthcoming
 - <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Species/Golden-Mussel>
- DBW
 - Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Program (AIPCP) started the treatment season in March with tools designed to be no risk to endangered species as we work with federal agencies to get another Federal Nexus or Action Agency to support us with getting Section 7 Consultation.
 - AIPCP has continued working with collaborators and partners utilizing reimbursement contracts or grants this year, which includes DWR, CDFW, USFWS, two reclamation districts, and a private community to ensure resources are available to control invasive aquatic plants in as much of the Delta as possible.
- Contra Costa County Ag. Dept.
 - Artichoke thistle and starthistle treatments underway
 - Flagged news article by the Guardian: “Rodent for dinner? US residents encouraged to eat invasive nutria”
- Solano County Ag. Dept.
 - Ongoing eradication projects: glasswing sharpshooter, *Dittrichia viscosa*, tree of heaven
 - Board of supervisors recognizing invasive species week!
- USDA-ARS
 - Beginning research forest mapping Ludwigia and herbicide screenings. Looking for management solutions
- USFWS
 - None
- SF Bay NERR
 - None
- The Freshwater Trust
 - Contracted with private rancher to have boats out treating invasives

Wrap-up and action items

- Next meeting August 20; 10-noon

- Email Rachel.wigginton@deltaconservancy.ca.gov with any suggestions for DIISCT meeting presentations/speakers
- Email Anjali.shakya@deltaconservancy.ca.gov with symposium feedback
- Review IAV guidance draft and send comments to elizabeth.brusati@deltacouncil.ca.gov