

Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team

Third Quarter Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 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)
- Gina Darin, Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Thomas Jabusch, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Cesar Blanco, USFWS
- Jennifer Ketterlin, USFWS
- Derek Medina, CA Department of Food and Agriculture
- Trevor Fox, CA Department of Food and Agriculture
- Jens Beets, US Department of Agriculture
- Rachael Klopfenstein, DSC
- Stephen Elser, DSC
- Andrew Chang, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
- Eddie Hard, CA State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways
- Jonathan Thompson, State Lands Commission
- Don McCoon, Alameda County Ag
- Cody Thompson, San Joaquin County Ag
- Matt Slattengren, Contra Costa County Ag Department
- Gabriel Chen, Contra Costa County Ag Department
- Tanya Meyer, Yolo County WMA
- Brenda Grewell, UC Davis, Department of Plant Sciences and Center for Plant Diversity

Notes

Welcome and announcements

- Review of DIISC framework; goals
- CISAC Update
 - Next meeting is 8/21/25, 10am; discussing how to prioritize \$20 million in funding (https://www.iscc.ca.gov/cisac_meetings.html)
 - Gina Darin nominated Vice Chair!

- Quick Start Guide (IAV)
 - Text for the guide is nearly complete
 - Discussions on how to build this into a webpage
 - A 1-page fact sheet may be created
- DIISC Team Roster
 - RW sent draft with Q3 meeting agenda. Current team members should provide updates to existing contacts within their organizations
 - Suggest organizations, individuals that are not yet represented on the DIISC Team
- NAISMA – Conference being held November 3-6, in Stateline, NV
 - <https://naisma.org/programs/2025-annual-conference/>
 - Elizabeth Brusati presenting poster on EDRR in the Delta
- Cal-IPC – Conference being held November 12-15, in Ventura, CA. In-person and virtual.
 - <https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/>
 - Gina Darin presenting lightning talk on IAV Guide plus a full talk with Blacklock updates
- Annual meeting of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, Sept. 17-19
 - Virtual option on YouTube
 - Session on GM, Martha Volkoff to speak on Wednesday from 11:30-1pm
 - <https://westernregionalpanel.org/annual-meeting/>

DIISC Team Website update

- Taking suggestions to update the webpage in advance of Delta Week (September 21-27)
- DIISC Team homepage:
 - Please ensure your organization's logo is represented/up to date; send hi-res logos to Rachel W
- About the DIISC Team:
 - No updates currently planned
- DIISCT Activities and Symposium:
 - Meeting notes are posted here for the previous eight meetings
 - Highlights research/projects that the DIISC Team has provided support and/or funding
- Delta Invasive Species:
 - Contains pictures and information about invaders; we want to make sure this represents current and critical information
 - Considering adding:
 - 'Species of concern' – not an exhaustive list but lists those of most concern

- 'Species watch list' – those that are not in the system yet but are nearby or connected; links to reporting invasives
 - Consider adding *Ludwigia decurrens*
- Team feedback:
 - Consider updating DIISC contact email (possibility for DIISC@deltaconservancy.ca.gov)
 - Update Research projects to include Gina's work on Phragmites at Blacklock
 - Add presentations that are related to DIISCT work (presentations at conferences, papers, outreach materials/fact sheets, etc.) if we have external links for them
 - Invasive Species Page
 - Proposing to add additional subhead for watchlist/species to look out for, including Quagga/Zebra mussels, Water lettuce, etc.
 - Proposing to update photos to link to information, not just subheads
 - Ensure DBW is linked, consider moving 'Resources' section to the top of the page

2025 Delta Invasive Species Symposium update

- December 4, 2025, at CNRA
- Call for abstracts open!
- Registration will open in the fall
- Speaker suggestions
 - We have a list of speakers we have already reached out to
 - Brett Mulligan
 - Thermal stress – Cat Pien, Rosie Hartman
 - Abigail Keller – managing marine invasive species (Ted co-author)
 - Mosen UCD – predicting and modeling invasive plants possibly AI tools for weed ID
 - Brenda Grewell – alligator weed and sea level rise
 - Looking for talks on Traditional Knowledge
 - USFWS horizon scanning
 - DWR rapid field assessment eDNA
- Lightning Talks
 - Add to flyer the date of the Symposium and the need to attend in person

Agency round robin

- SSJDC
 - Gearing up to release Prop 4 solicitation notice. There will be 3 categories: Nature Based Solutions, Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation, Community Enhancement. Likely to be a small grants program down the road (<\$100,000; e.g. pilot-level studies, research projects, events, trainings, etc.)

- Delta Stewardship Council
 - DSC meeting Thursday 8/28 with an invasive species theme to Lead Scientist report; Abigail Keller, Rachelle Tanner, Christine Whitcraft
 - Adaptive Management Forum on October 14-15. With half-day fieldtrip to Lookout Slough (signups are anticipated to max out, sign up soon!). Registration is open. Taking abstracts for posters.
- DWR
 - Fish Restoration Program – 8,000-plus acres of restoration for smelt and other listed species. Last two projects are in construction then switch to long-term management. Working with partners for management efforts.
 - Partnering with CDFW for nutria program. Detector dogs potentially coming back in September to a DWR property. Judas nutria updates – deploy at Sherman Island
 - Aq Veg PWT – next meeting Sept 4. Contact Nick or Shruti.
 - Blacklock in Suisun Marsh – restoration started in 2006. Phragmites removal efforts began in 2017. Research project in '22. August 8, 2025, efforts began, including drone spray. First project to get permitted for tidal wetland and endangered species habitat. Gina will present more at upcoming conferences (mentioned earlier).
- CDFW
 - Invasive Species Program – Meeting with Fish and Game Commission last week, notice hearing to add three species to restricted species list. Golden mussel was a temporary emergency listing to expire in December. Final ruling November, to be in full effect in December.
 - Delta GM found in Antioch, New Bridge Marina – are they reproducing; working group meetings to discuss. South on San Joaquin River – Dos Reis Regional Park, most upstream location. Veliger detections Los Angeles reservoirs; South Bay Aqueduct
- Delta Protection Commission
 - None
- CA State Parks, DBW
 - Season is ongoing. Working with DWR at restoration sites – focusing on Lookout Slough (breached October 2024) and Suisun sites (Arnold, Bradmoor, Wings Landing, Tule Red). Alligator weed and water primrose
 - Investigated channels at Lookout Slough during visit with DWR, UCD, USDA, SMW; looking for opportunity for sites for pilot study to see if treating aquatic invasive vegetation could significantly increase turbidity
 - Expanding funding partnerships across the Delta. Several nonprofits, Reclamation Districts, and growers are putting in money. Putting together outreach plan for GM in partnership with CDFW

- CDFA
 - Two grant programs:
 - i. WMA: 40 new contracts; \$2 million over 3 years. Runs through 2027.
Some counties are just getting re-started after lapse in previous funding.
 - ii. Noxious weed program: 55 new agreements executed
 - Cal NPC website has map of WMAs
- USFWS Aquatic Invasive Species/USFWS Refuges
 - Received FY24/25 funding in July for refuges. Funds went to Stone Lakes for aquatic veg treatment and CDFW and San Luis NWR for nutria control. Continued nutria eradication coordination efforts with state on telemetry, detector dogs, and general monitoring. Refuge staff are coordinating with CDFW on monitoring for GM.
 - USFWS provided grants for Quagga and Zebra mussel control (due Sept. 5) and one for GM prevention and control due Oct. 6
 - i. Search Results Detail | Grants.gov Quagga and zebra mussels
 - ii. Search Results Detail | Grants.gov Golden mussels
- USDA
 - Continued work on *Ludwigia decurrens* in Butte County – mapping updates on Cal Flora – looks like it’s moving south
 - Spartina and herbicide resistance work forthcoming
 - Water stargrass is a native, more apparent in certain portions of the Delta, can be a problem for water irrigation districts by clogging and impeding water flows. Can act like a weed. Potential for mapping efforts.
- Contra Costa County Ag
 - Weed season is over. New contracts within military base, with high populations that had not been sprayed. Artichoke and purple star thistle. Ground squirrel season underway control to protect critical infrastructure.
 - Cotton seed bugs on radar; native to Africa. Found in nursery populations, intercepted. Cotton is not a large crop in the county.
- San Joaquin County Ag
 - Surveying to more active work with noxious weeds. Did not find cottonseed bug in county, tracking spread. Sudden oak death traced back to SJC but nothing found. Golden mussel flyers sent out to farmers in county.
- Yolo County RCD/WMA
 - WMA work will begin. Working on pampas grass, etc.
 - Most target weeds are in the western portion of the county – on high alert for Alligator Weed in Delta areas
- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)
 - GM monitoring for artificial substrate monitoring program

- Pilot scale work testing GM salinity tolerances: can they survive in a ship hull to Delta, then to other regions? Looks like they can.
 - Shipping traffic and ID risk for transport
 - Annual survey on fouling communities to see where GM turns up
- Organizations that left before round robin:
 - State Lands Commission
 - UC Davis – Dept of Plant Sciences, Center for Plant Diversity
 - Alameda County Ag

Wrap-up and action items

- Next meeting November 19, 10AM-12PM
- Email Anji Shakya with Symposium suggestions: Anjali.Shakya@deltaconservancy.ca.gov
- Provide updates to DIISC Team Roster; Send high-resolution logos to Rachel Wigginton: Rachel.Wigginton@deltaconservancy.ca.gov