

# Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination (DIISC) Team

## Fourth Quarter Meeting

Wednesday, November 19, 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, Nick Rasmussen, Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Thomas Jabusch, Jessica Vollmer, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Jonathan Thompson, State Lands Commission (SLC)
- Jenny Ketterlin, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Jens Beets, United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA ARS)
- Gabriel Chan, Contra Costa Agricultural Commissioner's office
- Matt Slattengren, Contra Costa Agricultural Commissioner's office
- Ted Grosholz, Professor Emeritus at University of California Davis (UC Davis)
- Brandon Nguyen, California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW)

## Notes

### Welcome, Updates, and Announcements

#### 2026 DIISC Team meeting dates

- Third Wednesday of second month each quarter.
- Rachel will send calendar holds once updated roster is confirmed.

#### DIISC Team website updates

- Delta Invasive Species page reorganized. Added definition for invasive species. "Species of Concern" reorganized, and the links were made easier to see. Links connect to other pages such as CDFW's, which have more detailed species information.
- Added Species Watch List for species near but not yet in the Delta.
- Added links for reporting and additional resources.
- Contact Rachel if you have comments or additions.

DIISC Team authored “Quick-Start Guide to Managing Invasive Aquatic Vegetation (IAV) in Tidal Wetland Habitats of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh” update

- Will be linked to DIISC webpage. Authors working on final text edits. Thank you to those who submitted thoughtful comments on the draft. Will be a landing page with introduction and links to separate pages for each section. Chose to format as a webpage rather than a PDF to facilitate future updates.
- Includes link to Microsoft form for feedback for future versions.
- Goal is to unveil website at the December 4 symposium.

North American Invasive Species Management Association 2025 Conference report out

- Elizabeth’s poster: Overview of DIISC, the EDRR Framework DIISC developed in 2021 by surveying members on what EDRR-related activities their agencies were doing, summary of Christine Whitcraft’s recommendations for improving EDRR in the Delta based on interviews and literature.
- International attendance! – All over the U.S. plus presentations from Ontario (Canada) and Australia. A number of people asked questions on the poster, several from the East Coast so I’m glad I had a map locating the Delta.
- Some presentation highlights: David Lodge on need to transfer IS knowledge to private sector to make it sustainable; University of Minnesota on using trail cameras and machine learning model to predict busiest times at boat ramps and improve inspection program efficacy; Ohio State University on 3D-printed spotted lanternflies as an outreach and training tool.

Other team member announcements

- Allen Family Philanthropies offering funding for nature-based solutions and overcoming challenges. Might be relevant to invasive species.  
<https://www.allenphilanthropies.org/accelerating-ncs-rfp>

2025 Delta Invasive Species Symposium update

- In person registration filling up, so register soon!
- Anji gave overview of [the agenda](#).
- Looking for volunteers including microphone runners, timekeepers, and notetaking for questions and major takeaways only.
- Nick (timekeeper) and Jessica (morning, mic runner) volunteered.
- Social hour planned afterward at Lucid Winery on R St.
- Current registration 117 in person, 116 virtual, with a few people registered for both in person and virtual

## Agency round robin

### Delta Conservancy

- Sign up for Conservancy email list to get most updated plans.
- Current grants on invasive species management on Little Franks Tract.
- Advertised symposium at State of the Estuary, expanded audience.

### DSC

- No additional updates.

### CDFW

- CDFW needs help connecting with local community on outreach for golden mussel.
- Trailer bill AB 149 signed, invasive mussels, updated Fish and Game Code 2301 and 2302 expanded from Dreissenid mussels to all invasive mussels, also defined invasive mussels more broadly, agencies can now write letter to CDFW Director to request authority to stop and inspect watercraft.
- Prop 4 gives \$20 million to CDFW for mussels, still determining how it will be allocated internally, possibly new positions.
- Mussel Sticker fee increases approved, also new to require it for out-of-state boats.
- Golden mussel keeps expanding, including to Southern California. San Joaquin Valley agriculture districts seeing more impacts. United States Bureau of Reclamation detected golden mussels in San Joaquin River in Fresno County. Multiple new detections in Delta and reservoirs. All infested locations are receiving Delta water.
- Nutria Eradication Program. 7,382 nutria taken total. In 2025, close to 2,000 taken, nearly 500 of those from Solano County.
- Big focus on Suisun Marsh, gaining access permission to the west including Napa and Marin counties, but no detections in Marin or Napa yet. Lots of surveys, cameras, trapping in Solano. Scat detection dogs.
- New detections in areas that were recently flooded. New detection Liberty Island – dog detection, farther north and east than had been detected.

### DBW

- DBW Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Program (DBW-AIPCP) has begun significant work on the Lookout Slough restoration site for the Fish Restoration Program (FRP) managed by DWR, which includes bi-weekly submerged aquatic vegetation treatments and monthly mapping to not only obtain data, but also to determine how best to manage this critical site for aquatic invasive plants.
- DBW-AIPCP has also been working on the Sentinel-2 Satellite imagery to increase accuracy for detecting floating aquatic vegetation. Our GIS and Data Management Team

has found a way to reduce tree overhang, riparian habitat from showing up, increasing accuracy of our mapping this year using remote sensing technology.

#### DWR

- Collaborative team with State Water Contractors, UCD, DBW, and USDA on Lookout Slough vegetation management. Conducting dye studies to track how water moves, which impacts how herbicides work and where they will be. Preliminary results indicate herbicides likely to be effective in some areas, other areas may have too much tidal exchange.
- Fish Restoration Program: One additional site to be constructed at Prospect Island, 8,400 acres (ac) tidal habitat, total 10,000 ac to be managed. Next year will be a challenge to have enough resources and meet permitting requirement for vegetation management. Partnering with DBW and private contractors for invasive species management. Nutria discovered at Lookout Slough by USDA scat detection dogs. Releasing Judas nutria soon.
- Starting genetic study on Phragmites.
- California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC): The Invasive Species Council of California's annual meeting will be on December 8. CISAC is discussing how to roll out Prop 4 funding, have learned that all funding will need to go through a Request for Proposals. CISAC has \$20 million available from Prop 4.
- California Invasive Plant Council Symposium (Cal-IPC): Gina gave lightning talk on the invasive aquatic vegetation guide and presentation on Blacklock Phragmites implementation, which was part of DIISC research needs assessment. Laws and regulations session was very helpful. Symposium talks will eventually be posted online.
- Statewide Weed Management Area (WMA) meeting at Cal-IPC. WMA program has state funding again.

#### SLC

- No updates

#### Contra Costa Agricultural Commissioner's office

- Control season is over, and they are working on winter planning. Planning invasive weeds survey using iNaturalist. Gabe would like to know if anyone else has experience using iNaturalist to track invasive weeds.
- Rachel's response: Use of iNaturalist depends on which species. Good for species that are easy to identify, not so much for species with high chance of misidentification. Also consider CalFlora.

## UC Davis

- Ted providing input to various groups for potential golden mussel work.
- Oregon has new sightings of Chinese mitten crabs, may be asking CA what we've done. They're looking into eDNA.

## USFWS

- Sending out RFP for regional invasive species grant program at refuges. Contact refuge if you'd like to work with them on a project.
- Jenny applied for federal golden mussel funding. Waiting to hear. Would fund technicians.
- Working with Stone Lakes on funding to DBW for invasive plant control.
- Working with CDFW on nutria.

## USDA

- Doing greenhouse studies on control for *Ludwigia* that's spreading in Butte and other counties.
- Comment on website – multiple species of *Ludwigia* with different management concerns, don't link just to *L. peploides*. Typo on curlyleaf pondweed. Inaccurate info on Vallisneria factsheet and out-of-date info on locations. Add hybrid curlyleaf to species of concern, found in Lookout Slough recently.
- Requests from Rachel – Is there a resource we can link to for hybrid curlyleaf or updated ribbon weed factsheet or website?
- Presenting on *Ludwigia* studies at CA Weed Science Society in January.  
<https://cwss.org/2026-conference-registration/>

## Wrap-up and action items

- Next meeting February 18, 10AM-12PM.
- Email Anji Shakya with Symposium volunteers: [Anjali.Shakya@deltaconservancy.ca.gov](mailto:Anjali.Shakya@deltaconservancy.ca.gov)
- Provide updates to DIISC Team Roster to Rachel.