

DRAFT IEP Science Highlights

Quarterly Directors Update

June 2012

IEP Data Synthesis and Work Planning for 2013:

- The IEP “Management, Analysis, and Synthesis Team” (MAST) was formed in January 2012 and is analyzing and synthesizing IEP data for two 2012 MAST reports (Fall Low Salinity Habitat (FLaSH) report and a broader MAST synthesis report and work plan) and a final, peer-reviewed POD report (AFS book, 2014).
- Crucial to the MAST progress to date were a 4-day MAST off-site work meeting at the State’s Marconi Center in March and a 2-day local MAST off-site work meeting at the DFG Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area office in May attended by 16 to 18 MAST members.
- To date, the MAST has completed the following:
 - MAST project charter, responsibilities, and communication plan (March 2012)
 - Two progress reports intended to update the IEP Coordinators, Directors, and Stakeholders about MAST status, accomplishments, and next steps as well as a call for concept proposals (April and June 2012)
 - A Call for Concept Proposals to be considered for further development and funding as part of the 2013 IEP Workplan
 - Presentations at the IEP Annual Workshop as well as to the IEP Stakeholder Group, the Delta Independent Science Board, and the Delta Stewardship Council
- Preliminary MAST conclusions include the recognition that delta smelt may have benefitted from a combination of favorable habitat conditions throughout 2011: high 2010-11 winter outflows reduced entrainment risk, a cool spring allowed for prolonged spawning, a fairly cool summer with good food resources promoted growth and survival, and turbid and productive fall conditions in the large, westward low salinity zone and in the Cache Slough region provided a large habitat area with suitable conditions for maturation.

Progress on IEP and IEP-related Reviews in 2012:

- A public scoping meeting was held on May 11 to initiate the review of the IEP Delta Juvenile Fishes Monitoring Program (DJFMP) and the Delta Juvenile Salmon Survival Studies (DJSSS) which will involve the IEP Science Advisory Group (SAG).
- The draft Fall Low Salinity Habitat (FLaSH) report and revised Adaptive Management Plan will be reviewed by an independent review panel convened by the Delta Science Program during a public review meeting, July 31-August 1.

2012 Conferences:

IEP Annual Workshop:

- Successfully held April 18-20, Lake Natoma Inn, Folsom, with about 400 participants.
- 56 talks in 11 sessions and 51 posters on a wide variety of topics.

Bay-Delta Science Conference:

- October 16-18, Sacramento Convention Center
- IEP has proposed a day-long special session focusing on low-salinity habitat