



# IEP Science Highlights

## Quarterly Directors Update

July 2014

### Monitoring Highlights

- Delta Smelt: In 2014, the “20 mm” *larval Delta Smelt* index (1.1) was the second lowest on record, reflecting long term issues with pelagic habitat and extended drought conditions.
- Winter Run Chinook Salmon: Monitoring suggested that a relatively large proportion of juvenile Winter-run Chinook salmon delayed moving into the Delta because of extremely low flows. Spawning of adult Winter-Run has started but it is too early to tell if the run will be affected by the drought.
- Drought: Many IEP staff and resources were involved with monitoring efforts to address extreme drought conditions in 2014. Examples included support of supplemental Chinook Salmon sampling near Sacramento and Delta Smelt monitoring at Jersey Point as an early warning of possible entrainment, and benthic monitoring to determine if drought conditions are supporting more invasive species.

### Management Analysis and Synthesis Team (MAST)

- The IEP Management, Analysis, and Synthesis Team (MAST) completed a revised report on Delta Smelt based on comments received in 2013.
- The 2014 MAST report synthesizes available information into an integrated conceptual model for Delta Smelt that is intended to inform year-round Adaptive Management (AM) of Delta Smelt, e.g. as envisioned by the new “Collaborative AM Team” (CAMT).
- The 2014 MAST report may also provide the basis for work for IEP Project Work Teams (PWTs) such as the newly-formed IEP Tidal Wetlands Monitoring Team, which met 6/25.
- Efforts are currently underway to organize a MAST for Chinook Salmon.

### Workshops and Work Teams (see <http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/activities/calendar.cfm>)

- Bay-Delta Science Conference: Results of work by IEP teams and others have been proposed for sessions at the upcoming Bay-Delta Science Conference (10/28-10/30). Proposed sessions by IEP staff include Monitoring of Fish Abundance/Gear Efficiency, Floodplain Ecology & Restoration, Ecohydraulics, and Chinook Salmon telemetry. In addition, IEP staff is serving as Program Chairs for the meeting.
- CABA Fish Monitoring Workshop: Staff gave an overview of the suite of IEP fish monitoring programs at a 5/12 workshop hosted by UC Davis and Delta Science Program.
- Environmental Data Summit: IEP staff participated in a 6/5-6/6 Environmental Data Summit organized by Delta Science Program. Experts at the summit discussed ways to improve data access and presentation.
- Interior Delta Flows Workshop: IEP staff, data, and results were highlighted at the Interior Delta Flows Workshop hosted by SWRCB and DSP on 4/16-4/17.

### Other IEP Science Activities

- Modernizing Monitoring: Efforts to improve smelt monitoring and the Delta Juvenile Fish Monitoring Program (DJFMP) to better serve current data needs continue.
- Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT): IEP staff is actively participating in all the key teams.
- Communication: Electronic files of IEP technical reports are now available on the IEP website.
- Integration: In addition to the CAMT, IEP staff continues to actively participate in integrative efforts such as the WQMC Estuaries Work Group, Delta RMP, Delta Science Plan implementation, etc.