



# INFORMATION ITEM

## Lead Scientist Report

### Summary

Recent Delta Science Program activities include the public comment period for the 2026 Delta Science Plan update, the Spring-Run Juvenile Production Estimate Peer Review workshop, and planning for the 2026 Bay-Delta Science Conference. Two important upcoming Delta science events are also highlighted in this report: the Interagency Ecological Program Annual Workshop and the Bay-Delta Blue Carbon Symposium.

### Delta Science Program Activities

#### 2026 Science Plan update

The public comment period for the draft 2026 Delta Science Plan was extended to January 30, 2026, and has now closed. The Delta Science Plan is recommended in the Delta Plan (G R1) and provides the vision, principles, and approaches for conducting, coordinating, and communicating science in the Delta.

The Council's Delta Science Program solicited feedback through direct outreach, listserv email announcements, and social media and received 41 comments (including comment letters and surveys) on the draft. All comments will be considered for the final version of the Delta Science Plan. A full review by the Delta Independent Science Board is also underway and will be posted publicly once complete at <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-isb/products>. A final draft of the Delta Science Plan is scheduled to be presented to the Council in May 2026. For more information about the 2026 update to the Delta Science Plan, see <https://deltascienceplan.deltacouncil.ca.gov/>.

### Spring-Run Peer Review update

The Spring-Run Juvenile Production Estimate (SRJPE) Peer Review kicked off in early January 2026, with its first public meeting on February 24 providing an opportunity for review panelists to present initial findings and hear input from the public. The goal of this independent peer review is to review the scientific approach used to calculate the annual SRJPE (the estimated number of juvenile Spring-Run Chinook salmon entering the Delta as they migrate to the Pacific Ocean) and to provide recommendations to the California Department of Water Resources and the multi-agency team tasked with development of the SRJPE. The review panel is made up of five subject matter experts, and the final report is expected to be released in April. Additional information about this peer review process can be found on the Council's website: <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/spring-run-juvenile-production-estimate-independent-peer-review>.

### On Your Radar

#### Bay-Delta Blue Carbon Symposium at UC Davis, March 5

The Council's Delta Science Program is collaborating with UC Davis's Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute to host a symposium on March 5, 2026. The symposium is called "Accounting for Blue Carbon in the Bay-Delta: Science, Policy, and Practice." Blue carbon is the carbon captured and stored in coastal and aquatic ecosystems, and the symposium will convene leading researchers, policymakers, natural resource managers, practitioners, and other interested parties to explore the science and policy of blue carbon in the Bay-Delta. The event will highlight the current state of the science on topics like greenhouse gas atmospheric flux, subsidence, and carbon crediting. It will also provide a platform for diverse perspectives on carbon management in the Delta and an opportunity to discuss the socio-political factors that influence this complex system. The symposium is a hybrid event. It will take place in person at the UC Davis International Center and will be livestreamed and recorded. Attendance is free but advance registration is required. For more information and to register, see <https://marinescience.ucdavis.edu/events/blue-carbon>.

### 2026 Interagency Ecological Program Annual Workshop, March 16–18

The 2026 Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Annual Workshop is taking place at the California Natural Resources Agency headquarters on March 16–18, 2026. This is an informal event held each spring for sharing new research results that advance science important to the IEP and the larger Delta science community. It features invited speakers, interactive sessions with principal investigators, a poster session, a poetry slam, and a mentor luncheon for early career professionals. This year's topics include emerging technologies (including artificial intelligence), physical and biological effects of flow, contaminants and water quality, harmful algal blooms, wetland habitats, Delta and longfin smelt, salmon, and zooplankton and other invertebrates. The event is free and will be hybrid (in-person and remote). Event registration information can be found on the Annual IEP Workshop webpage: <https://iep.ca.gov/Public-Engagement/Annual-IEP-Workshop>.

### By the Numbers

Science Program staff will summarize current numbers related to Delta water and environmental management. The summary (Attachment 1) will inform the Council of recent counts, measurements, and monitoring figures driving water and environmental management issues.

### List of Attachments

*Attachment 1: By the Numbers*

### Contact

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