

Draft Workplan (January 26, 2021)

Draft Delta Independent Science Board Work Plan

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Purpose

The Delta Independent Science Board (ISB) provides oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This is achieved by reviewing thematic areas (e.g., [water quality](#), [fish and flows](#)) or by reviewing specific products related to adaptive management. Current reviews, which are at various stages, include [water supply reliability](#), [invasive species](#), and [monitoring](#). This workplan provides an overview of what the Delta ISB hopes to accomplish in 2021. It is subject to change based on the Delta ISB’s discussion at its January 27, 2021, meeting. Timelines are best estimates and can change, as each project progresses.

Efforts	2021											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ecosystems: Non-native species	Finalize Report	Council Presentation: 2/25/21	Outreach April: BDSC? (4/6 to 4/9)									
Water Supply Reliability	Prepare Public Draft?		Public Comments on Draft Report?		Revise Draft Report Based on Public Comments?		Finalize?		Council Presentation?	Other Outreach?		
Monitoring Enterprise	Reinitiate and Re-organize Information Collected to Date?		Interviews Complete?	Interview, Questionnaire, and Inventory Analysis?			Prepare Public Review Draft Report?	Public Comments on Draft Report?	Revise Draft Report Based on Public Comments?		Finalize? Will go into 2022.	
DPIIC Science Needs Assessment (SNA)	Prepare Report for DPIIC Meeting in March		Draft Report to DPIIC? (3/15/21)	Public Comments & BDSC? (4/6-9)	Revise SNA?		Finalize SNA to DPIIC?	Outreach and Implementation Support?				
Science Action Agenda								HOLD: Review and Comment on Science Action Agenda?				
Explore Forward-Looking Science/Future Review Topics	Continuous?											
Other Requests?	<i>Throughout 2021, the Delta ISB may receive other requests to review documents from the Delta Stewardship Council and other organizations, which it may consider reviewing. The Delta ISB has plans to review the draft Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Conveyance Project, which will not occur until 2022.</i>											

Current Thematic Reviews

Non-native Species

The Delta ISB is in the process of completing a review to improve the scientific understanding needed to help agencies prevent and manage the threats and consequences of non-native species (plants and animals) in Delta lands and waters. The Delta ISB approved the content of a [draft report in November 2020](#), and the report will be finalized in February 2021. Most of the work in 2021 will focus on sharing the findings and recommendations of this review, and providing any requested assistance to Delta Stewardship Council to help with implementation.

Targeted Date	Task
Through the end of January 2021	Finalize report.
February 25, 2021	Present final report to the Delta Stewardship Council.
Through the end of May 2021	Continue with outreach, including a potential presentation at the Bay-Delta Science Conference from April 6 to 9, 2021 (if abstract is accepted).

Water Supply Reliability

The Delta ISB is undertaking a review of the scientific efforts and methods by various programs to estimate and evaluate water supply reliability that could identify areas for improved coordination and future research for the Delta. The focus of 2021 will be on finalizing the report.

Targeted Date	Task
Through the end of March 2021	Prepare draft report.
Through the end of May 2021	Seek public comments on draft report.
Through the end of July 2021	Revise draft report based off public comments and take potential action at a Delta ISB meeting.

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Targeted Date	Task
Through the end of September 2021	Finalize report for submission to the Delta Stewardship Council.
October 2021	Present findings and recommendations to the Delta Stewardship Council.
Through the end of June 2021	Consider and implement other outreach activities.

Monitoring Enterprise Review

The Delta ISB is undertaking a broad review of the Delta monitoring enterprise, which is the full suite of monitoring activities that occur in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh. The review has two components. Component 1 is the development of a comprehensive inventory of monitoring activities in the Delta, which is now complete (see [Component 1 summary](#)). Component 2 is the Delta ISB's assessment of the Delta monitoring enterprise, which will be based on the information obtained in Component 1 and other information gathered by the Delta ISB during its review. The focus of 2021 would involve the completion of Component 2.

Targeted Date	Task
Through the end of February 2021	Reinitiate the review and reorganize information collected to date to inform the review.
Through the end of March 2021	Complete interviews to help inform the recommendations for the review.
Through the end of June 2021	Complete analysis of interviews, the monitoring inventory, and the questionnaire.
Through the end of August 2021	Prepare public draft report.
Through the end of September 2021	Seek public comments on draft report.
Through the end of November 2021	Revise draft report based off public comments and take action at a Delta ISB meeting.
Through the end of 2021	Finalize report.

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Targeted Date	Task
Through the beginning of 2022	Present results to the Delta Stewardship Council and perform outreach.

Science Needs Assessment

Based on the [recommendations from the Delta ISB](#) and the endorsement of the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC), a long-term Science Needs Assessment (SNA) is being developed, as part of the [Delta Science Funding and Governance Initiative](#). The SNA will identify key science efforts to provide long-term management insights in the context of rapid environmental change and recommendations for organizing the science enterprise to better address complex and changing problems. The focus of 2021 is to finalize the SNA.

Targeted Date	Task
Through the end of February 2021	Reinitiate the review and reorganize information collected to date to inform the review.
Through the end of March 2021	Prepare draft report to DPIIC for discussion and feedback.
Through the end of April 2021.	Seek public comments on draft report, including at the Bay-Delta Science Conference from April 6 to 9, 2021 if abstract is accepted.
Through the end of June 2021	Revise draft report based off public comments and take potential action at a Delta ISB meeting.
Through July 2021	Finalize report to DPIIC.
Through the end of 2021.	If requested, assist with implementation support.

Other Reviews

In addition to its thematic reviews, the Delta ISB will also consider requests to review draft products related to adaptive management from the Delta Stewardship Council and other stakeholders. In early 2021, the Delta Stewardship Council may seek informal input on [Delta Adapts: Creating a Climate Resilient Future](#). In the fall of 2021, the Delta Science Program may make a request to the Delta ISB to review the draft Science Action Agenda. In addition, the Delta ISB has plans to review the draft Environmental

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Impact Report for the Delta Conveyance Project, which will not occur until 2022 (see the [Delta ISB's comment letter on the Notice of Preparation](#)).

Future Reviews

Based on the discussion at the Delta ISB's January 27 meeting, the Delta ISB will decide what new review topics to initiate or further explore in 2021. In 2020, the Delta ISB developed a list of [potential review topics](#), and have sought [stakeholder feedback](#) on future priorities.