



The Delta Science Program will host three Sea Grant State Fellows in 2021

Background

The Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta along with the San Francisco Bay, is part of the largest estuary on the West Coast. The “Bay-Delta” supplies two-thirds of California’s water and provides vital habitat for endangered, endemic, and migratory species such as Chinook salmon and Sandhill cranes.



The [Delta Stewardship Council](#) (Council) is a state agency whose mission is to support a more **reliable statewide water supply** and a **healthy and resilient ecosystem**, both achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique characteristics of the **Delta as an evolving place**. The **Delta Science Program** (DSP) is a division of the Council and functions as a boundary organization with a mission to provide scientific information, independent peer review, and syntheses on issues critical for managing the Bay-Delta system. The DSP also leads efforts to build an open, integrated, and collaborative Delta science community.

The DSP has hosted fellows for the past eight years and provides a welcoming and collaborative work environment. Past fellows have enjoyed touring the Delta, taking professional development courses, attending seminars and conferences, and assisting partner agencies with field work. As one of three Science Program fellows, you will work at the dynamic interface of science and policy—**synthesizing, reviewing, coordinating, funding, and communicating** science on several high-priority issues, including:

- Climate change
- Sea level rise
- Water supply reliability
- Habitat restoration
- Endangered species
- Non-native/invasive species
- Fisheries management
- Integrated modeling
- Human dimensions of natural resource management

As California’s capital, Sacramento is a hub for environmental science and policy. DSP fellows build extensive professional networks by working with a range of State, federal, and local government agencies including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, the California Department of Water Resources, the California State Water Resources Control Board, as well as consulting firms, academia, NGOs, and others. Many fellows have gone on to work with these partners.

Position 3: Science-Based Adaptive Management Unit

This unit provides support and leadership on the use of adaptive management, which is a structured, scientific approach to management that aims to produce and incorporate new knowledge into management of natural resources. Current work includes (1) leading the Interagency Adaptive Management Integration Team (IAMIT) and the Suisun Adaptive Management Advisory Team (Suisun AMAT) to support adaptive management in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, (2) evaluating and communicating “lessons learned” from past restoration efforts and water management actions, and (3) supporting the reviews of scientific programs conducted by the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB). The Delta ISB, which is comprised of renowned scientists across the nation and across disciplines, supports adaptive management by periodically reviewing scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs in the Delta.

Host Location: 980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500, Sacramento, California

Fellowship Supervisor and Point of Contact: Karen Kayfetz, Environmental Program Manager I
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Potential Projects

- Perform evaluation and synthesis related to “lessons learned” from ecosystem restoration and/or water management, drawing on long-term environmental datasets and research. Publish results in agency literature or scientific journals.
- Collaborate on planning an adaptive management forum. Bring in experts from around the Delta and from other systems to discuss "lessons learned" from previous management efforts in a daylong workshop. Co-produce a meeting summary, white paper, or essay for a scientific journal.
- Help to plan and facilitate meetings of the IAMIT and/or the Suisun AMAT, interagency groups who support ecosystem restoration adaptive management in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. Help to support interagency initiatives within these groups.
- Support the reviews of the Delta ISB, which could include literature reviews, analyzing questionnaire data from the science community, coordinating interagency events (e.g., panel discussions), and creating communication products and outreach materials on Delta ISB reviews.