



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.

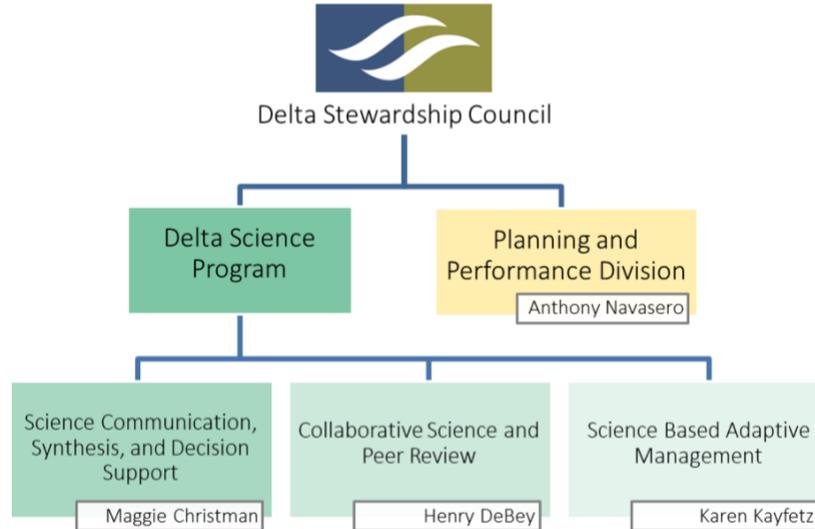


The [Delta Stewardship Council](#) (Council) is a state agency whose mission is to support a more **reliable statewide water supply** and a **healthy and resilient ecosystem**, both achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique characteristics of the **Delta as an evolving place**. The **Delta 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 2: Collaborative Science and Peer Review Unit

The Collaborative Science and Peer Review Unit is working on several exciting and challenging efforts focused on: 1) catalyzing coordination and collaboration of Bay-Delta science efforts with a diverse set of stakeholders and agencies to jointly implement the [Delta Science Plan](#), 2) supporting competitive [funding](#) of priority research aligned with the [Science Action Agenda](#), 3) synthesizing scientific information to generate best available science for informing water and environmental resources decision-making, and 4) facilitating [independent scientific peer reviews](#) of programs, plans, and reports. A fellow in this unit will engage in our unit’s collaborative interagency initiatives and lead an independent project that leverages their unique skillset.

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

Fellowship Supervisor and Point of Contact: Henry DeBey, Environmental Program Manager I, Henry.DeBey@deltacouncil.ca.gov, 916-445-0092

Potential Projects

Specific projects will be identified based on the fellow’s expertise and interests, but may include:

- Contributing to the implementation of the Delta Science Plan through participation in multi-agency collaborative efforts to perform horizon scanning for future research agendas, identifying opportunities for sustainable science funding, and developing metrics to track the plan’s implementation and performance.
- Advancing the integration of human dimensions science to inform Bay-Delta management and policy decisions through implementing social science investigations,

developing community research agendas, and building networks of social science investigators.

- Assisting with developing guidelines and best practices for policy-science forums to identify scientific uncertainties, prioritize management questions, and facilitate exchange among programs and entities to promote science communication among decision-makers, scientists, and stakeholders.
- Enhancing how we work at the interface of science, management, and policy in part by collaborating with other boundary organizations for a best practices document.
- Evaluating the effectiveness and utility of Delta Science Program independent peer review efforts, including tracking and summarizing actions resulting from independent scientific peer reviews.
- Assessing the collaborative network or governance structure of the Delta based on ongoing work.
- Contributing to the update of the Science Action Agenda and development of a competitive science funding program to address needs.
- Synthesizing information on stressor impacts to the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Examples of Previous Fellows' Projects

- Multi-agency investigation of salmon behavior and migration in floodplain habitats
- Multi-agency and stakeholder [salmon gaps analysis report](#)
- Contributed to the Interim Science Action Agenda ([past fellows' promotional video](#))
- Assisted in organizing a public workshop on Sacramento River temperature modeling
- Conducted an analysis of the potential values striped bass provide to the Delta
- Wrote a collaborative science governance report and appendix to the Delta Science Plan