



The Opportunity of Change:

Building and Being the Future Together

September 28-30, 2026 | Sacramento, CA

Day 1 Sept. 28	Session 1 (B1)	Session 2 (B2)	Session 3 (B3-8)	Session 4 (B9)	Session 5 (B10)	Session 6 (MR 9/10/11)
8:00 – 5:15	Registration/Check in - Ballroom B Pre-function					
9:00 – 12:00	Plenary Session and Brown-Nichols Science Award – B3-8					
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch – Hall D			Mentor-Mentee Lunch - MR 9/10/11		
1:30 – 3:10	Scaling natural climate solutions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Integrating science, policy, and community resilience	Data to decisions: Tools to support management despite uncertainty	What we know, what we don't, and what we're guessing: Updated conceptual models of Central Valley salmon life history (Part 1: Causes and consequences of migration phenology)	What have we learned and how do we advance collaborative science in the Bay Delta?	Foundations of the food web: Understanding phytoplankton and microphytobenthos across managed aquatic systems	The 2026 Delta Science Plan: Advancing social science, governance, and Traditional Knowledge to tackle the Delta's grand challenges
3:10-3:30	Break					
3:30-5:10	Nature-based solutions in California and beyond: Cross-system learning on co-benefits and adaptive management	Lost in translation: Connecting water policy and science through a common language	What we know, what we don't, and what we're guessing: updated conceptual models of CV salmon life history (Part 2: Flow pulses and floodplains)	Science for Communities: Community-driven research projects	Watershed-wide fish communities across space and time	Exploring California water futures through interactive scenario learning and data Visualization (workshop)
5:15-7:15	Poster, Art, and Networking Reception – Hall D					



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Day 2 Sept. 29	Session 1 (B1)	Session 2 (B2)	Session 3 (B3-5)	Session 4 (B6-8)	Session 5 (B9)	Session 6 (B10)
8:00 – 5:15	Registration/Check in - Ballroom B Pre-function					
8:30 – 10:10		Adaptive management at work: Practitioner perspectives, restoration planning, and ecological outcomes	Envisioning and evaluating Chinook Salmon recovery scenarios: from new insights to new futures	Climate-driven water management and integrated modeling	Just Transitions in the Delta: Co-designing, modeling and visualizing future scenarios	Decision support and modeling innovations for salmonid management
10:10 – 10:30	Break					
10:30 – 12:10		Multi-benefit wetlands spanning carbon, subsidence, ecology, and indigenous stewardship	Through the looking glass: A conversation between regional high school students and state leaders in science and resource management	The chemistry of change: Modeling water quality in a dynamic estuary	Just Transitions in the Delta: Assessing and comparing salinity and climate adaptation scenarios	Which way to go? Influencing juvenile salmon migration at Georgiana Slough
12:10 - 1:30	Lunch – Hall D			Delta Trivia Showdown – B1		
1:30 – 3:10	Playing with complexity: What gamification can teach us about collaborating on complex environmental challenges	The making of a marsh: How science shapes tidal wetland restoration in the San Francisco Estuary	Genetics in action: How the adoption of genetic tools is enhancing management of the Bay-Delta ecosystem	Patterns and processes in tidal wetland food webs	Use of a new academic-agency collaborative training program to advance modeling capabilities in the Bay Delta (Part 1)	San Francisco Estuary Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program: Inaugural multi-indicator monitoring results to inform and streamline tidal wetland restoration implementation
3:10 - 3:30	Break					
3:30 – 5:10	Evidence-based monitoring of progress toward the coequal goals to galvanize actions, investments, and partnerships	Carbon, water, and the Delta landscape: Rethinking land use for a resilient future	Delta Smelt survival and the promise and challenges of supplementation	Unexpected food web dynamics from historic, restored, and managed wetland habitats in Suisun Marsh and the Delta	Use of a new academic-agency collaborative training program to advance modeling capabilities in the Bay Delta (Part 2)	Social indicators in the Bay-Delta: Where we are and where we're headed



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Day 3 Sept. 30	Session 1 (B1)	Session 2 (B2)	Session 3 (B3-5)	Session 4 (B6-8)	Session 5 (B9)	Session 6 (B10)
8:00 – 5:15	Registration/Check in - Ballroom B Pre-function					
8:30 – 10:10	Bird & mammal perspectives on habitat use and restoration in Delta landscapes	Movement, migration, and modeling: Advances in tracking salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon	Longfin Smelt Science Program: Improving our understanding of species ecology for improved management (Part 1)	Machine learning and AI for the future of the Delta: Integrated, interpretable, and operational tools for adaptive management	Research to results: Re-envisioning scientists as policy partners	Integrated tools for monitoring and managing harmful algal blooms across the Bay-Delta
10:10 – 10:30	Break					
10:30 – 12:10	Data-driven insights into salmonid movement and habitat restoration	Algal blooms and ecosystem impacts in the San Francisco Estuary	Longfin Smelt Science Program: Improving our understanding of species ecology for improved management (Part 2)	Restoration, faster: Regulatory approaches to accelerate ecological restoration in a changing Bay-Delta estuary	Building Shared Understanding: Representation, Community Science, and Co-Produced Knowledge	Salmonid life history diversity, survival, and response to water management
12:10 - 1:30	Lunch – Hall D					
1:30 – 3:10	Competing and complementary visions for salmon recovery: An interactive fishbowl on salmon recovery and water management	Realizing the opportunity for hypothesis-centered science: The Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Science Program (Part 1)	Longfin Smelt Science Program: Improving our understanding of species ecology for improved management 3/3	Peering beneath the surface: advances in monitoring using sound and sight	Climate change and resiliency planning	Elevate Bay Delta
3:10 - 3:30	Break					
3:30 – 5:10	Ecosystem Health Across Scales: From Watershed Transformation to Nutritional Stress in Fish	Realizing the opportunity for hypothesis-centered science: The Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Science Program (Part 2)	Advancing salmon resilience: Integrating life-cycle models, climate stressor insights, and innovative monitoring	Data from the sky: Remote sensing and monitoring technologies	Modeling and managing stressors: Contaminant exposure, invasive mussels, and herbicide persistence in the Delta	Cleaner waters and broader benefits: Lessons from the convergence of physical, biological, and chemical restoration