

Congratulations...

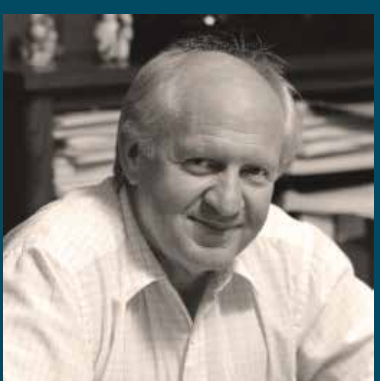
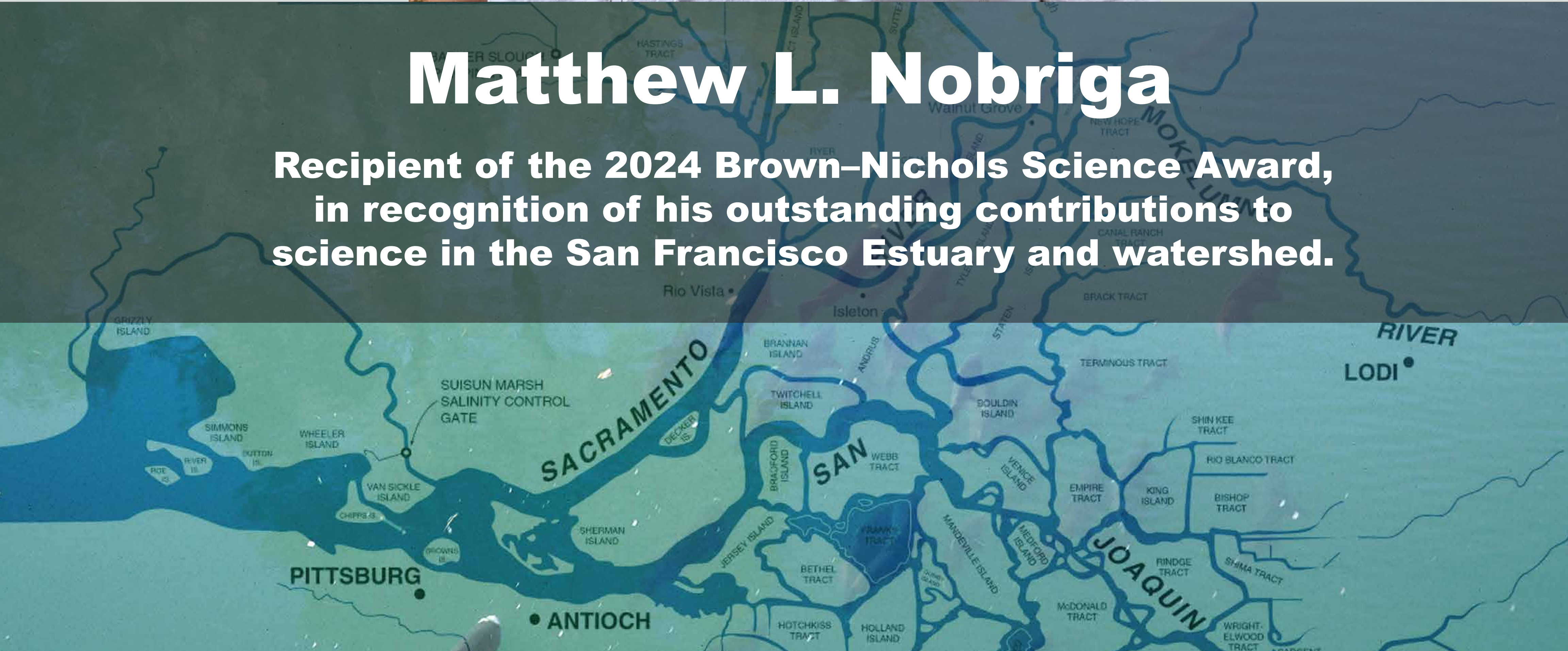
Matthew L. (Matt) Nobriga is being honored by his peers as the ninth recipient of the Brown-Nichols Science Award. Matt is a highly respected researcher in the Bay-Delta, with expertise in the life cycles of Bay-Delta fishes, especially Delta and Longfin smelt. His expertise is well-reflected in his record of publications, which is exceptionally long for an agency scientist in this region. Although others can match or exceed the number of papers that he has produced, few have tackled the breadth of topics or had papers exhibiting the level of impact of Matt's contributions. For nearly 30 years, Matt's career has been with State or Federal agencies. In both regulatory and management settings, he has been able to directly apply his scientific knowledge to address high priority management and policy questions and help design management actions that benefit the overall aquatic ecosystem, as well as at-risk species. Through his role as a supervisor of other agency scientists, Matt has led teams of hydrologists, fish biologists, and modelers to



publish in a variety of peer-reviewed journals, adding to the literature of management relevant science. In addition, those teams have worked with others to develop highly useful models including a Delta Smelt Life-Cycle Model and a Delta Smelt Individual-Based Model to assess and predict the effects of water resource management actions on the Delta Smelt population. Not only does Matt understand the science of the Delta, but he also has a rare ability to explain that knowledge to students, managers, and politicians. He is someone to whom everyone turns with respect, and his input often has the effect of calming and informing dialogue that could otherwise end up being contentious. Matt was among the early cadre of scientists that Randy Brown mentored in the 1990's. Randy's efforts greatly expanded the role that science and scientists play in managing the Bay-Delta, and California water overall. As stated in one of the award nomination letters, "It is only appropriate that another one of [Randy's] 'people' would be qualified to win this award."

Matthew L. Nobriga

Recipient of the 2024 Brown-Nichols Science Award, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to science in the San Francisco Estuary and watershed.



The Brown-Nichols Science Award has been established to honor the substantive contributions of Dr. Randall Brown and Dr. Frederic Nichols to science, their facilitation of good science by others, and their communication of science to managers and policy makers in the San Francisco Estuary and watershed.



Delta Stewardship Council

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