

Bay-Delta Workshops

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Background

- Updating 2006 Water Quality Control Plan
- Board requested input on science and management related to fish & wildlife beneficial uses
- Organized three workshops
 - Ecosystem changes and low salinity zone (Sep 5-6)
 - Fishery resources – pelagics and salmonids (Oct 1-2)
 - Analytical tools for water supply, hydrodynamics, hydropower (Nov 13-14)
- Intent to enable broad range of stakeholders to provide input and for Board members to engage them in discussion

Workshop Charge

- Workshops 1 & 2
 - What additional scientific and technical information should the Board consider?
 - How should the Board address scientific uncertainty and changing circumstances?
- Workshop 3
 - What types of analyses should be completed to assess effects of changes to Bay-Delta Plan?
 - What tools should be used to evaluate these effects; what are their advantages / disadvantages?

Participants

- Invited panel organized by Delta Stewardship Council
Lead Scientist
- State and federal regulatory / fishery agencies
- State and federal resource management agencies
- Environmental / non-governmental organizations
- In-Delta water interests
- State / federal water contractors
- Sacramento Valley water suppliers
- San Joaquin Valley water suppliers
- California energy agencies

Workshop Summary Approach

- Workshop summary report available online
- Synopsis of each presentation in each workshop
- Q & A and discussion with Board members
- Facilitator's report identified key points of agreement, disagreement, uncertainties and questions

Major Topics Addressed

- Research and conflict resolution approaches
- Salinity and the Low Salinity Zone
- Flow
- Fish, their habitat, and the overall ecosystem
- Nutrients and plankton
- Invasive species
- Contaminants
- Management and adaptation
- Modeling approaches

Nature of the Problems

- Basic agreement on core issues
 - General agreement on broad principles, conclusions, areas of uncertainty
- Much less agreement on
 - Specifics of patterns and processes
 - Cause – effect relationships
 - Outcomes of alternative policies
- These are “wicked” problems
 - Multiple and poorly characterized factors
 - Factors whose relationships change over space and time
 - Involve entities / people with competing interests
 - Affected by weak coupling between science & management

Next Steps

- Awareness of long-term downside of persistent conflicts over science and its interpretation
- Broad agreement with / support for Invited Panel's call for more collaborative science
- Willingness, with some caution, to work across institutional boundaries
- Workshops did not identify a specific mechanism for collaboration