Regional Focus, Global Impact


SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY AND WATERSHED SCIENCE (SFEWS) is an online scientific publication that serves to educate the interested public, inform the scientific community, and encourage informed discourse and public involvement by providing free access to peer-reviewed scientific research about the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (the Delta), the San Francisco Estuary (the Estuary), its watersheds, and the adjacent ocean.

The journal publishes the latest scientific knowledge describing the health, importance, and critical issues affecting the Estuary. Since 2003 SFEWS has published over 35 papers that address both climate change and sea level rise and their effects on the Estuary.

The information provided by SFEWS also addresses the nexus between climate change research, its conclusions, and its affect on water-management policies and the future of the Delta and Estuary.

The impact of SFEWS has grown since its inception in 2003, as evidenced by a steady increase in the number of articles downloaded per year and its inclusion in important international search engines.

Our goal is to make the latest peer-reviewed research about the region readily available for people to discover, digest, and discuss, recognizing that credible science is a critical ingredient if the community is to take effective action on behalf of the Delta and Estuary.

For the Governor’s Global Climate Summit 3 we have assembled a set of our most influential papers into a special issue addressing climate change in the California Bay-Delta. For a copy, contact Managing Editor, Lauren Muscatine.

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The California Delta is the largest estuary on the western coast of the Americas. It is home to more than 500,000 Californians and serves as the state’s hub for reliable water supply and year-round recreation and tourism. Many Delta species have been declared “threatened” or “endangered.” Publications in SFEWS show that climate change is having a profound impact on California water resources, including changes in snowpack, sea level, river flows, and weather patterns.

The Delta is a lush habitat for plants and animals, many of which are found only in the Delta. Scientists have been working to determine how best to return key Delta species to better health and more abundance while sustaining the reliability of water supplies.