

Lost in Translation: The Art of Interpreting Complex Science for Policymakers

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This session will explore communicating complex science for decision-making by featuring discussions between authors of chapters in *The State of Bay-Delta Science, 2016* and the policymakers grappling with decisions related to the authors' chapters.

Topics and Panelists

- **Threatened and Endangered Species:** *Jim Hobbs (UC Davis) & Paul Souza (USFWS)*
- **Contaminants:** *Richard Connon (UC Davis) & Adam Laputz (Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board)*
- **Delta Levees:** *Steve Deverel (Hydrofocus) & Dustin Jones (Delta Stewardship Council)*
- **Predation:** *Gary Grossman (University of Georgia) & Doreen D'Adamo (State Water Resources Control Board)*
- **Landscape Ecology and Integrative Science:** *Michael Healey (University of British Columbia) & Petrea Marchand (Consero Solutions/Yolo Habitat Conservancy)*

Communicating complex science to policy- and decision-makers is a critical step towards effective management of the Bay-Delta. One way to bridge the communication gap is by utilizing a strategy that allows for communication to multiple audiences (scientists, the governor, legislature, policymakers, managers, regulators, and the public). *The State of Bay-Delta Science (SBDS)* is a synthesis of current scientific understanding of the Bay-Delta, emphasizing progress made on key research questions and remaining knowledge gaps. *SBDS* also explores policy implications of current science and ways to improve the delivery of science for management. The *SBDS 2016* Summary for Policymakers further distills and translates key science topics, with a focus on why these topics matter.

To explore how to make science useful as well as usable, this special session will feature a 'talk show' format panel discussion between authors chapters in the *State of Bay-Delta Science, 2016* (first volume can be found at: http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie_sfews?volume=14;issue=2) and the policymakers/decision-makers/regulators/or grappling with decisions related to chapter topics. Each topic area will include a discussion framed around translating complex science and could involve discussions about how "management concerns" get translated into scientific questions, how "scientific results" get translated into policy/management/regulation, whether policymakers ask answerable questions and whether scientists express the science in meaningful ways. The discussion also will explore how authors decided what to cover in their chapter and what the policymakers need next. We expect that this set of conversations will demonstrate why it's often difficult to bridge the gap between science and policy, which highlights the need for translating science in multiple ways.

Keywords: The State of Bay-Delta Science, SBDS, Science Communication

Session Title: Lost in Translation: the art of interpreting complex science for policymakers

Session Time: Wednesday 10:20 AM – 12:00 PM, Room 307