

FACT SHEET

California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup Web-Based Tools Website

Deliverables: Web based tools for integrating research, monitoring, and assessment data from multiple sources in the Bay-Delta Estuary.

Status: Website developed, with tools and data loading continuing.

Primary Investigator: Calif. Estuary Monitoring Workgroup

Recipient Organization: 34 North

Project Cost: \$205,000

SFCWA Funding: \$205,000

Partners: Interagency Ecological Program and member agencies, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Conservancy, Sacramento Regional CSD, The Bay Institute, California Water Quality Monitoring Council



Screenshot of the California Estuary Workgroup Tools homepage

Introduction

There are numerous sources of research, monitoring, and assessment data in California, little of which is standardized or publicly accessible. The goals of the California Estuaries Monitoring Workgroup (CEMW), which operates under the guidance of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council, are to evaluate and enhance existing estuarine monitoring and to improve the assessment of multiple data sources through web-based tools.

Objective

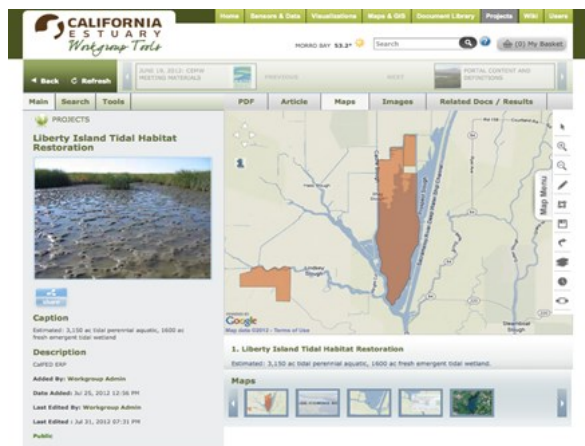
To develop a password protected website that is a virtual space where Bay-Delta natural resource managers, scientists, policy makers, and conservationists can work together using research, monitoring, and assessment data from multiple sources to develop a better understanding of the San Francisco Estuary and other estuaries across the state. Content is developed on this website, approved by CEMW and CWQMC and then moved to the public Portal.

Results

The website has been developed and has a collection of integrated tools to help visualize, manage, and understand data about California's estuaries. The visualization tools are already being used to display phytoplankton and benthic organisms trend data in the San Francisco Estuary for the California Estuaries Ecosystem Health portal.

Conclusions

1. The website requires that published annual data reports and species studies data be converted to digital formats to make the information more useful. Once data is in the appropriate e-format, web services can be established for automated updates.
2. The website offers a range of integrated tools including
 - Project Management,
 - Document Management,
 - IEP Data Sets,
 - Live Conditions,
 - Maps and GIS,
 - Data Visualization Tools, and



Screenshot of the Liberty Island Tidal Habitat Restoration project page.

Relevance

Having all available environmental data associated with the San Francisco Estuary accessible through a single website with analytical tools that can be used by scientists, managers, and policy makers is a large step toward understanding and reporting on the health of the estuary and more robust assessment. SFCWA's strategic plan calls for the continued collaborative efforts with Delta science entities to improve monitoring, assessment and reporting of Bay Delta monitoring and research results through the facilitation of the California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup and data portal.

Next Steps

SFCWA is funding development of a nutrient data visualization and analysis tool for the web portal, and has also engaged outside experts to assist with data transformations and analyses.