

PREDATION PROJECT WORK TEAM: UPDATED 2023

PURPOSE

As an Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Project Work Team (PWT), the Predation PWT acts as an interdisciplinary forum to improve understanding of the Bay-Delta ecosystem by fostering communication and collaboration among scientists. The group provides a forum for emerging scientific ideas and approaches and promotes the application of the best possible science to management problems in the Bay-Delta watershed.

Other PWTs in the IEP focus on specific species, habitats, or management actions, which consider bottom-up drivers of fish populations. The Predation PWT is unique in that it focuses on top-down drivers of fish populations through predation pressure. Consequently, the PWT considers linkages across higher trophic levels, as well as spatial and temporal scales. The Predation PWT is a place to take on complex predator-prey dynamics with an interdisciplinary group.

CULTURE OF THE PWT

The Predation PWT is a place to informally vet new ideas, research proposals, and preliminary data analyses. Participants are expected to come to meetings “ready to work;” that is, prepared to participate actively and constructively in discussions of other’s work and to periodically bring their own ideas, proposals, and data to share. Agendas allow talks to be short or long and discussions have no set time limits; they may go on as long as they are fruitful, respectful, and constructive, or until the meeting time limit is reached. Everyone present at meetings is expected to contribute to the discussion. Presentations and other contributions don’t have to be perfect, but they have to be relevant and contain new information.

The Predation PWT does not make any decisions on behalf of IEP, agencies, or stakeholders. It is meant to be a safe and welcoming space for the free exchange of ideas. All group members are encouraged to speak up if they feel that this free exchange is being threatened. The co-chairs facilitate discussions and may intervene to keep the conversation on track and on time.

Predation PWT meetings are online. Meetings occur three times per year, in the afternoon of the second Wednesday of January, May, and September.

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Do not hesitate to ask questions or for clarification during the presentations. The inclusion of diverse expertise within the Predation PWT is what often promotes novel insights.

2. In order to protect the culture of trust and openness for exploratory topics and works-in-progress, it is essential that participants refrain from recording, screenshotting, or sharing any portions of the meeting without express permission from the presenter. Requests for slides or other information should be directed to presenters (not the PWT co-chairs), and presenters retain the right not to share their slides or notes for any reason.
3. Focus, to the best of your ability, on meeting participation and minimize multitasking.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTERS

1. Give sufficient background on your topic to orient an audience of people who will have different disciplinary backgrounds than you, who work in different areas, who have different levels of knowledge about the Bay-Delta system, and who may not have been present at your last talk to get the context for this one.
2. Expect questions and comments throughout your presentation as well as at the end.
3. When sharing slides, please keep the chat windows open so you can see and respond to raised hands and incoming messages. Schedule a run-through with the meeting facilitator in advance of the meeting to practice and test the technology.
4. If possible, turn on your camera when you're presenting.

PWT ORGANIZATION

1. Everyone can join the Predation PWT email list and participate in meetings, but must agree to active and constructive participation.
2. All PWT activities and communications are about science.
3. The PWT co-chairs, currently Tyler Pilger (tylerpilger@fishbio.com) and Geoff Steinhart (Geoffrey_steinhart@fws.gov), lead EET meetings, produce meeting agendas, and send out meeting notices.
4. Everyone can suggest meeting agenda items to the PWT co-chairs.
5. PWT meetings will be announced via the email list.