

Bay-Delta and Tributaries Cooperative Data Management System

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Biographical Sketches of Authors

Karl Jacobs is Chair of the Interagency Ecological Program Data Utilization Work Group, as well as manager/member of the team developing the comprehensive Bay/Delta and tributaries databases for the Interagency Ecological Program, Central Valley Improvement Act, Stakeholders and other groups who collect and need access to environmental data within this region. He is Section Chief for the Interagency Information Systems Section within the CA Department of Water Resources.

Liz Cook and Chris Fox primarily work with data providers for the data management system, working in MS Access. Catalina Guillen and Danny Luong provide Informix database administrative support. Kris Lightsey is our Web pages developer, as well as providing support on Informix. Marc Vayssières provided overall database support and assistance with web design.

Abstract

The Bay/Delta and Tributaries (BDAT) Cooperative Data Management system is a data sharing process that provides data organization and distribution services for water resources-related information through collaborative efforts at local, state and national levels. The system's infrastructure is centered on modern relational database and associated data distribution technologies. Three main elements include: 1) local desk-top relational database applications, 2) large centralized comprehensive relational databases, and 3) web based applications and user interfaces built using the best state-of-the-art technologies available, including data query tools, WWW-oriented distribution strategies and map serving software.

The first element encourages groups to participate in the system by providing customized applications that support superior data management and sharing. These applications also include automated features that enable users to transfer data to the comprehensive databases; the second element is where attributes such as the names of fish species, locations, analytes etc. are standardized. The third element makes data selection and retrieval from the comprehensive databases available to any user with internet access.

Data users and decision makers are gaining access to multiple standardized data sets from a single source as data from many groups become centralized and available on the web. This enables users to focus on analyzing data instead of spending time trying to find, clean up and organize diverse data sets. The BDAT Cooperative Data Management system has improved access to data collected from the San Francisco Bay/Delta and their tributaries.