

## Data and Tools: Modern Information-Sharing to Promote Beneficial Resource Outcomes

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In agency circles, scientists and managers voice many questions and concerns about data sharing. How do natural resource managers leverage tools to communicate not just data but other useful information? And how do they ensure that their data-sharing practices conform to current user needs and expectations? What does effective collaboration look like in the context of environmental information management?

This panel will chart some examples of successful information-sharing projects serving the Estuary. Panelists will demonstrate recent strides in the use of tools to inform management decisions, illustrating how advances in information-sharing have also advanced our ability to manage our resources more insightfully. For instance, the Delta Conservancy and Delta Stewardship Council have partnered with nonprofits such as San Francisco Estuary Institute, The Nature Conservancy, and New Fields to promote open data, harness information for regional insights, and aggregate restoration project tracking. Point Blue, the State Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Project, and USFWS have partnered to track endangered Ridgeway's rails in the Bay and share related information on a broad scale. Meanwhile, the Exploratorium serves as a convener of data providers and consumers, while working with NOAA and USGS to track sea-level rise at their Bay Observatory. The Exploratorium, an educational, publically focused organization, both contributes and distributes information.

The panel will begin with a live-narrated video highlighting some of the panelists' recent advances in environmental information-sharing and collaboration. Panelists not featured in the video presentation will then introduce a recent project emblematic of open data sharing. We then anticipate the panel to conduct a lively conversation among the gathered experts to probe not only the successes but continuing challenges to well-integrated information technology.

Following the panel, during the poster session, we will feature the "Tech Section." This multimedia, information-rich innovation center will afford an opportunity for attendees to continue the discussion started during the panel session, while watching interactive demonstrations of the highlighted tools.

**Keywords:** collaborative data-sharing practices, environmental information management

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