Platform presentation preferred

**Contaminants in Structured Decision Making processes for Delta Smelt.** S. Acuña, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Sacramento, CA; J. Hoffman2, Adaptation/Insights, Seattle, WA; B. Davis. California Department of Water Resources, West Sacramento, CA Water project operations and listed species management has significant hurdles in regard to making the best decision to either reduce impacts and/or promote recovery. Contaminant impacts can be one of those hurdles as there are numerous interactions that if not accounted for could lead to unrealistic predictions or spurious conclusions. Recent efforts to manage water in the San Francisco Estuary and the impacts of that management on the listed species Delta smelt (Hypomesus transpacificus) have attempted to use an integrative approach to incorporate contaminant effects in decision making. The Structured Decision Making framework was used in different scenarios in conjunction with the use of expert elicitation, lifecycle modeling, and/or Bayesian Network modeling to incorporate contaminant performance metrics into decision making. The effort was done to determine whether water project management decisions need to begin including contaminant impacts in their decision making regarding Delta smelt. The effort identified significant gaps in data and updated ecosystem conceptual models regarding water operations, contaminants, and Delta smelt that were used in making decision.