



CHANGES TO DELTA OPERATIONS

2019 Biological Opinions for Central Valley Project and California's State Water Project

Federal fish agencies have been reviewing the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed new operations for the Central Valley Project and California's State Water Project. Reclamation, FWS and NMFS worked closely during the consultation period to develop and refine and updated, real-time monitoring strategy. This will produce better science to manage water more efficiently, striking the delicate balance needed for the sensitive Delta ecosystem, fish and Californians.

Key Takeaways

- Early winter pumping reduced to protect pre-spawning smelt.
- Early spring pumping reduced to protect migrating salmonids.
- More pumping in spring if species are not at risk.
- Operations based on real-time risks, not calendars.
- Expands current science to learn how to protect fish and tests actions to judge effectiveness.
- Built-in triggers ensure efforts are protecting fish, or actions will be adjusted



Steve Martarano/USFWS

Key Actions

- Robust, real-time fish monitoring by boats on the water and triggers to adjust operations to protect fish, as needed (instead of calendar-based restrictions).
- Commitment to reduce pumping when sensitive species are present.
- Commitment to keeping salvage levels at or below levels in last decade, and built-in science reviews to monitor effectiveness.
- Commitment to provide habitat through both flow and non-flow actions.
- Ramp up efforts to boost fish survival, enhance food supply, increase monitoring effectiveness and reduce predation.



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