



DRIVEN BY SCIENCE

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

Federal fish agencies reviewed the Bureau of Reclamation's and State of California's proposed new operations for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project with a focus on new and updated scientific information gathered since the last Biological Opinions were signed more than 10 years ago. Science is the cornerstone of this consultation – both in the scientific integrity of the consultation process and in the resulting final operations plan and Biological Opinions.

Scientific Integrity in Consultation

- Multiple independent peer reviews underscoring our commitment to transparency and scientific integrity.
- In April, FWS undertook an independent peer review of their draft effects analysis.
- In June, NMFS undertook an independent peer review of their draft effects analysis.
- In addition, both agencies undertook a second independent scientific review of their draft BiOps at the end of July.
- Coordinated with Department of the Interior and Department of Commerce Scientific Integrity Offices and Science Advisors during consultation process to ensure adherence to highest standards of scientific integrity.



Ian Shive/USFWS



UC Davis Fish Conservation and Culture Laboratory

Strong Commitment to Science

Reclamation and DWR's built-in commitments to adaptively manage the Projects will ensure that the operating plans continue to incorporate the best available science to advance conservation of threatened and endangered species and their habitats. This includes:

- The consultation was informed by the best available science that developed over the past 10 years.
- Scheduled independent science reviews of Shasta Cold Water Management Performance Metrics and Delta Performance Objectives create a science-based pathway for NMFS and Reclamation to refine performance metrics.
- Incorporates formal structured decision making process, an approach for careful and organized analysis of natural resource management decisions. SDM concepts include making decisions based on clearly articulated fundamental objectives, recognizing the role of scientific predictions in decisions, dealing explicitly with uncertainty, and responding transparently to societal values in decision making; integrating science and policy explicitly.