# IPaC Overview

April 2022

https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/

Do Testing/Training Here:

https://ipacb.ecosphere.fws.gov/

# IPaC Vision

*IPaC will transform interagency cooperation by delivering efficient 21$^{st}$-century consultations and greatly improving regulatory consistency, predictability, transparency, and conservation outcomes.*

# IPaC Objectives

- Streamline the overall Section 7 consultation process

- Increase efficiency, consistency, and transparency

- Improve the consultation experience for the public, Fed agencies, & FWS

- Reduce duplication in effort and plan for smaller workforce

- Minimize/streamline low-benefit/low-risk workload

- Improve conservation through convenience

- Improve public accountability and credibility

- Reduce "requests for information" (*i.e.,* receive high quality info the first time) and improve the timeliness of decisions

- Gain time for biologists to focus on conservation outcomes

- Facilitate data integration

# IPaC Functionality Timeline

- 2010 – IPaC goes live with delivering Official Species Lists (OSL)

- 2015 – Conservation Measure Reports (Impact Analysis)*
  *Replaced by CPB*

- 2016 – Determination Keys (Facilitated S7 consultation)
  Ability to save and collaborate on projects in IPaC

- 2017 – Survey Guidelines and General Measure delivery with OSL

- 2020 – Consultation Package Builder (CPB) (Assisted BA)
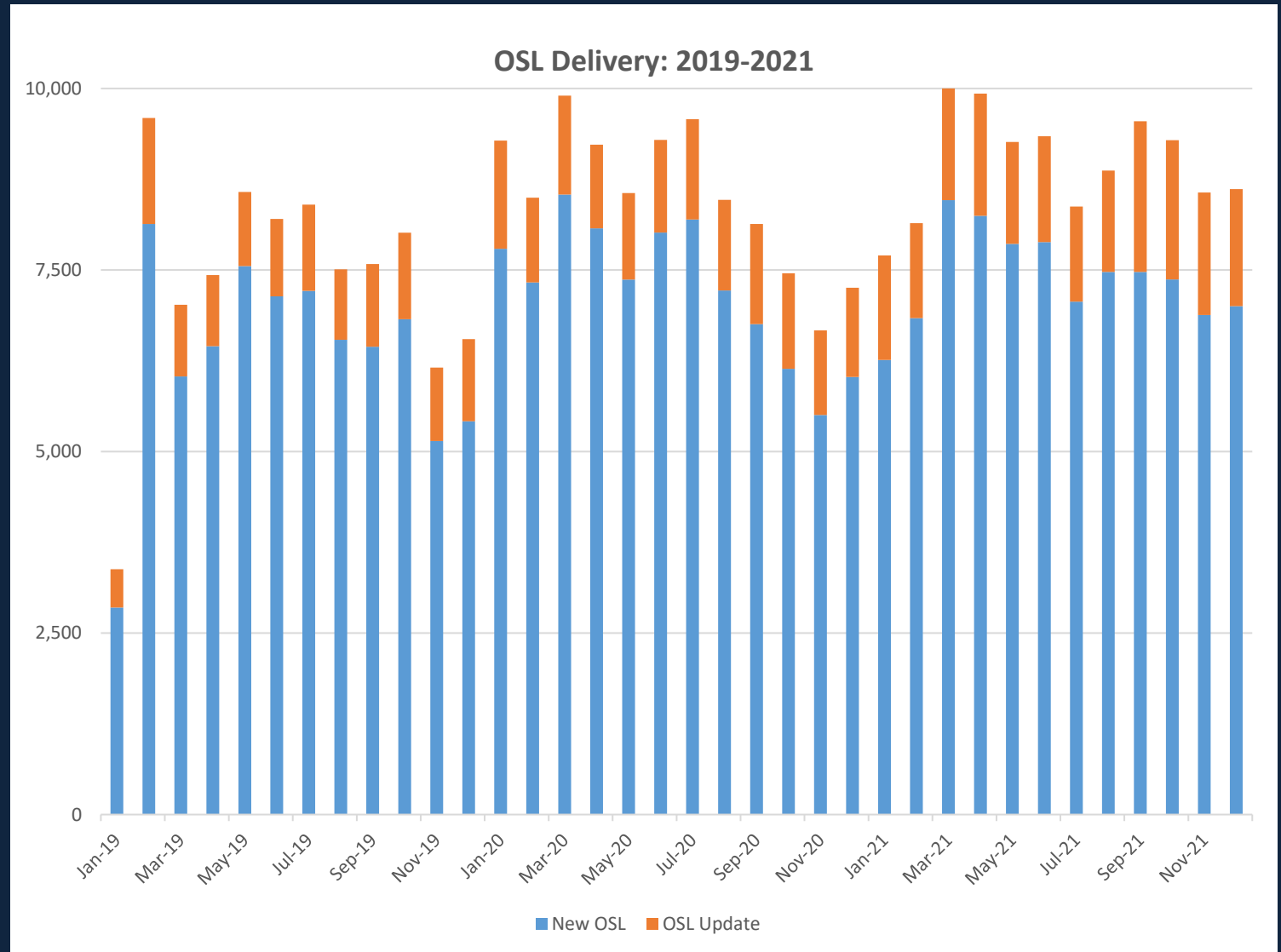  NOTE: CPB replaces the 2015 "Impact Analysis" functionality

**As of Dec. 31., 2021, IPaC has over 50,000 registered users.**

# IPaC: OSL Delivery

- **Over 298,000 OSL delivered in last 3 years**

- **2021 Average > 8,900/month**

- **95 Species have additional helpful info**



OSL Delivery: 2019-2021

# Determination Keys (DKeys)

Logically-structured sets of questions which assist a user in determining whether a project qualifies for a predetermined consultation outcome based on an existing programmatic consultation or internal standing analysis.



**WOOD STORK KEY**

Although designed primarily for use by Corps Project Managers in the Regulatory and Planning Divisions, and State Regulatory agencies or their designees, project permit applicants and co-sponsors of civil works projects may find this key and its supporting documents useful in identifying potential project impacts to wood storks, and planning how best to avoid, minimize, or compensate for any identified adverse effects.

A.  Project within 2,500 feet of an active colony site[1]...........................*May affect*

    Project more than 2,500 feet from a colony site................................go to B

B.  Project does not affect suitable foraging habitat[2] (SFH).....................*no effect*

    Project impacts SFH[2]................................................................go to C

C.  Project impacts to SFH are less than or equal to 0.5 acre[3]...................*NLAA*[4]

    Project impacts to SFH are greater than or equal to 0.5 acre...................go to D

- **Dkeys are essentially dichotomous keys and are not new to IPaC.**

- **14 are currently available in IPaC & 10 more are in development**

# Benefits of DKeys in IPaC

**Enhanced Screening/Delivery Capability**

- Leverage geospatial data to automatically answer questions

- Track the use and implementation of programmatic consultations

- Deliver automated concurrence letters

**Consistency/Time Savings**

- Projects screened in IPaC are automatically written to ECOSphere (FWS project tracking platform) in the same manner every time

- As DKeys come for shared species, IPaC facilitates conversations between the offices to close the gap if they have been regulating the same species differently (DKey users see consistent logic)

**Transparency**

- DKey users see the same questions and determinations each time

- IPaC users can clearly see the logic behind Programmatic outcomes

# Determination Key Delivery

## IPaC helped users screen nearly 51,000 projects in the last 3 years

### DKey Delivery: 2019-2021

Legend: FHWA, Federal Loans, NLEB 4d, Louisiana, Arkansas, KY G-Bat, Michigan, ABB, Arlington, IndianaBat, Manatee, USCG, LC Trout, FL Comms

# Consultation Package Builder

The CPB helps users compile a complete Biological Assessment & Consultation Package *before* submitting a consultation request.

**CPB:**

- ❖ Assists users in developing a good action area

- ❖ Helps users analyze and document all potential effects and conservation actions associated with a proposed project

- ❖ Leverages data from FWS's Effect Pathway Manager (EPM) in detail to provide helpful suggestions and recommendations for analyzing a project

- ❖ Provides a consistently formatted biological analysis document

THANK YOU!

Please email us anytime:
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