
From: Naseem Alston - NOAA Federal <naseem.alston@noaa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 3:12 PM
To: Evan Sawyer - NOAA Affiliate
Subject: science planning

FYI here is what was written before:

As California emerged from its most recent drought, then Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Eileen Sobeck and the SRSC met to discuss concerns related to environmental conditions and water availability. During their July 13, 2016, meeting Ms. Sobeck and the SRSC agreed to undertake a “shared and integrated work plan” to develop a new temperature model for Sacramento River operations, as well as a need for shared science and understanding. As part of a process to evaluate a proposed amendment to the NMFS 2009 biological opinion addressing Shasta Reservoir operations and seasonal temperature management for salmon in the Sacramento River, Reclamation and NMFS drafted a Science Work Plan (shared in mid-January 2018 with the SRSC). In a January 26, 2018, letter to Barry Thom and David Murillo (Regional Director for Reclamation’s Mid-Pacific Region), the SRSC (a) reaffirmed an interest in the collaborative development of improved science and monitoring tools and models to better inform water-management decisions and restoration activities in the basin, and (b) expressed some concerns about a NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) conceptual proposal to explore the influence of dissolved oxygen and water flow in temperature-related mortality of salmon eggs.

To respond to SRSC’s first request, NMFS (along with Reclamation and other State and Federal agencies) are developing a new “Partnership” and forum for the discussion and possible collaboration on research and monitoring that expands upon the Shasta RPA Amendment Science Work Plan. NMFS and the SRSC have taken a lead role in developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU)/Charter for the Partnership, as well as in scheduling a workshop in September 2018 to discuss the state of science and monitoring in the Sacramento River. A key objective of the Partnership is to strengthen the organization, structure, transparency, accountability and efficiency of management actions and the science on which those actions are based. To respond to SRSC’s second point, NMFS’ WCR and the SWFSC have tried to emphasize, during initial Partnership planning meetings with the SRSC, the role and concept of how Best Scientific Information Available works in the example of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and what a structure within the Partnership to provide scientific support for various management/policy decisions might look like.

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