

Meeting Agenda

Biological Opinion Mid-Review Check-In

Independent Peer Review of the NMFS Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

June 7, 10:00-2:00 PT, WebEx

WebEx: 1-866-469-3239; Access Code: 808-815-099

<https://aq.webex.com/aq/j.php?MTID=m4e2c51872f2137bce1a9422c1e6fba88>

The purpose of the call is to provide an opportunity for all the reviewers to provide an opportunity for the reviewers to discuss key topics prior to submitting the individual review report. Additionally, NMFS will join the call to clarify and discuss any questions provided to them ahead of the call.

- 10:00-10:15 – Introductions and administrative tasks
- 10:15-11:45 – Discuss the review questions
 1. How well does the analytical approach explain how the exposure, response, and risk from project operations will be assessed for:
 - individuals, populations, and diversity groups of the listed species?
 - physical and biological features of designated critical habitats?
 2. How effectively is the analytical approach applied in the effects analysis on the listed species and designated critical habitats?
 3. To what extent does the approach for assessing effects provide a scientifically defensible approach for evaluating adverse effects to listed species and their designated critical habitats throughout the action area?
 4. How well does the draft biological opinion use best available scientific and commercial information in the effects analysis and findings?
 5. Does the draft biological opinion adequately address data gaps and uncertainties?
Specifically:
 - a. Are uncertainties and assumptions in the effects analysis clearly stated and reasonable based on current scientific knowledge?
 - b. How extensively are gaps in aquatic species life history information considered and appropriately addressed?
 6. How adequately does the draft biological opinion address the key operational effects of the proposed action? Specifically:
 - a. Do the analyses provide sound information and analyses to adequately characterize the effects of operations on spawning, incubating, rearing, and outmigrating salmonids and sturgeon?

- b. How thoroughly do the data, analyses, and findings presented in the biological opinion capture the risks to individuals and populations, and to critical habitat, from the proposed action? Are there significant risks that have been overlooked or other scientific information that should be considered?
 - c. Have the appropriate analytical tools (i.e., models) been used for the analysis and what, if any, additional currently available tools should have been considered? Were available models appropriately applied and interpreted in the analysis?
- 11:45-12:00 – Break
- 12:00-1:30 – NMFS representatives will join the call
 - Walk through questions provided to NMFS ahead of time
- 1:30-2:00 – Wrap-up
 - Next steps for the final week of review
 - Complete review – be sure to include all content listed in the template
 - Email Word version of review directly to John by 5 pm on June 21
 - Email invoices directly to Michelle by June 25