

Clifton Court Forebay-Predator Reduction Electrofishing Study (CCF-PRES)

Region: Delta

Type of Idea: Study

Timeframe: Three years

Species and Lifestage: Protected fish species with an emphasis on Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Current Requirement – The Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) Predator Reduction Electrofishing Study (PRES) was implemented in response to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) letter dated April 9, 2015, requiring that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) immediately implement interim measure (a) of condition 3 as part of the larger effort to comply with Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) Action IV.4.2(2) of the 2009 Biological Opinion and Conference Opinion on the Long-term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project (NMFS BiOp).

Idea – The PRES began with a pilot year effort in 2016, a 2017 effort to refine methods and determine the main factors affecting predator catch, particularly spatial patterns, and a 2018 effort focused on maximizing predator removal based on knowledge gained during the 2016 and 2017 campaigns. The PRES involves electroshocking and removing predators from CCF and transporting them to Bethany Reservoir with the goal of decreasing pre-screen loss of protected fish species with an emphasis on Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Additionally, concurrent with the PRES, releases of Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) and acoustically tagged juvenile Chinook Salmon are occurring in an effort to determine rates of pre-screen loss in the Skinner Evaluation and Improvement Study (SEIS).

Reclamation would assist DWR with NEPA and/or ESA compliance, as necessary for the study. Combining this compliance with Track 1 of the ROC could be efficient to avoid a separate NEPA and ESA document. This is an existing RPA action but could help improve water supply by reducing take through CCF.

Past Implementation – a pilot year effort occurred in 2016.

Current Science – monitoring will occur to evaluate the effectiveness of predator removal and determine pre-screen loss.

Modeling Assumptions – Not Applicable