

Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program

Purpose

Work with a sense of urgency to collaboratively evaluate current hypotheses and management actions associated with protection and restoration of species of concern, current and future federal and state regulatory authorizations for the SWP and CVP, and other local and state management actions, to improve performance from both biological and water supply perspectives.

Approach

1. Provide a FORUM for communication among the agencies, NGOs and PWAs;
2. Act as a CATALYST to address the most contentious and urgent management relevant science issues; and
3. Timely COMPILE AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION for decision makers on contentious and urgent science issues.

FORUM – CSAMP should be a venue where issues, alternative hypotheses, and alternative management approaches can be thoroughly and openly discussed by all involved agencies and stakeholders. It should be a forum for meaningful discussion that promotes understanding, identifies areas of agreement and disagreement, and facilitates better informed management decisions. If an issue is not to be heard, all should understand why. CSAMP is not a decision-making body and should not become an institution in-and-of itself.

CATALYST - CSAMP should (1) be a catalyst for integration of scientific information to inform policy makers and (2) be a venue for proposing and vetting potential changes to management actions and monitoring schema based on such information in order to maximize their effectiveness while minimizing their costs and impacts on society, recognizing that decisions regarding changes must ultimately be made by the agency or agencies with decision-making authority. Part and parcel of this effort, CSAMP should address urgent and contentious issues taking the initial steps to define the issue, define the differences in understanding and areas of agreement and disagreement, promote common understanding (narrow the differences) and fund science where appropriate, and tee up trade-offs for policy makers. If the activity requires a long-term investment, CSAMP should find the appropriate entity to address the issue and report back to CSAMP on a regular basis.

COMPILE AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION - CSAMP should be the trusted provider of key information. This includes compilation of data, analyses of findings, critical assessment of that information, and synthesis of that information in order to aid policy makers. The information provided should be complete; with the pros and cons as appropriate. CSAMP should not strive for consensus, but it should always provide well thought out information and associated rationale. Members must be able to understand the source and essence of both agreement and disagreement being discussed.

Scope

CSAMP was originally established, and continues to focus on science and adaptive management issues related to current and future biological opinions for SWP and CVP operations, including the science underlying specific actions contained in the reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs). However, CSAMP has identified the need to maintain the flexibility to address emerging science and information needs regarding water management and species of concern in the Delta and upriver, including actions to improve the resiliency of Delta Smelt and salmonids. CSAMP is also committed to coordinating with other programs and technical support, such as the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP), Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), NOAA South West Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC), and Delta Science Program (DSP) to avoid duplication, minimize take, and promote collaboration and knowledge transfer.