

Science, Service, Stewardship



FCRPS Biological Opinion
Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation
Take Determination Process

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**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Overview

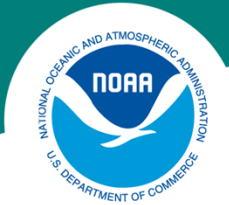
- FCRPS BiOp – ESA Section 7(a)(2) consultation
- FCRPS BiOp Incidental Take Statement
- FCRPS Take Determination Process



FCRPS BiOp – ESA Section 7(a)(2) Consultation

2008 FCRPS BiOp (& Supplemental 2010 BiOp)

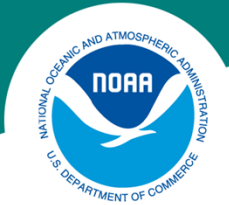
- 72 RPAs in 2008 BiOp (most with multiple components)
- 20+ RPAs require research, monitoring and evaluation
 - Passage Evaluation, Transport, and Survival Studies; Smolt, Population, Predator, and Habitat Monitoring; Hatchery Effectiveness, etc.
- 7 Amended RPA Actions (Including 2009 Adaptive Management and Implementation Plan)



Incidental Take Statement

2008 FCRPS BiOp Chapter 14 – Incidental Take Statement

- Take from FCRPS Operations and Hydropower Actions
 - Habitat Actions
 - Hatchery Actions
 - Predator Control Measures
 - RM&E Actions
- Reasonable and Prudent Measures and Terms and Conditions that are necessary and appropriate to minimize, or otherwise reduce the impact, of take.
- Amended in 2010 BiOp to include adult sockeye study.



ITS - Covered RM&E Actions

1. Monitor the status of selected fish populations related to FCRPS actions (RM&E Strategy 1 actions); Support performance monitoring and adaptive management related to hydropower (RM&E Strategy 2 actions);
2. Support performance monitoring and adaptive management related to Tributary Habitat Actions (RM&E Strategy 3 actions);
3. Support performance monitoring and adaptive management related to Estuary Habitat Actions (RM&E Strategy 4 actions);
4. Support performance monitoring and adaptive management related to Harvest Actions (RM&E Strategy 5 actions);
5. Support performance monitoring and adaptive management related to Hatchery Actions (RM&E Strategy 6 actions);
6. Support performance monitoring and adaptive management related to predation management actions (RM&E Strategy 7 actions);
7. Coordination and Data Management RM&E (RM&E Strategy 8 actions); and
8. Track Project implementation and Compliance Monitoring (RM&E Strategy 9 actions).



FCRPS BiOp Take Process Requirements

- Research, monitoring, or evaluations specifically required by the FCRPS BiOp (RPA, AMIP, etc.)
- Levels of take and incidental mortality justified by the value of information produced. Applicants are required to minimize take where possible.
- Does not exceed levels of take specified for RME specified in the FCRPS BiOp.
- Regional review of projects (SRWG, ISAB) is strongly encouraged.



Take Determination Process

1. Researcher consults with FCRPS BiOp RM&E Take coordinator and requests application materials.
2. Researcher submits application.
 - Application is reviewed by NOAA Hydro section staff biologist. Some requests may require informal consultation with the researchers to explore means to minimize take.
3. After application and levels of take and incidental mortality are approved, a take letter is issued (<1 year duration).
4. Within Season Modifications / Reporting
 - Modifications may be requested by researchers during the season, or incident reports required in the case of events causing high levels of mortality.
5. Researcher compiles annual report including authorized and actual take and incidental mortality.



How We Track Take

- Each project is assigned a unique number, which is paired with the agency acronym (NWFSC-75)
- Take is recorded by Species (ESU), age, origin, and by activity / severity of take
 1. Harass or Disturb
 2. Capture and Handle
 3. Collect Sample or Tag
 4. Lethal Sampling
- Allotted take (based on initial population estimates) is entered into a database to maintain a running tally
- Actual take is entered into the database at the end of the year.



Limitations

- Must be directly FCRPS BiOp related
- Limited amount of take allowed, based on amounts / proportions of RM&E take in 2006
- Limited ability to respond to changing research priorities (extremely limited numbers of adults authorized for take).



Advantages

- As authorized take levels have already undergone ESA consultation – there is no need for lengthy Federal Register notices, NEPA, and ESA consultations.
- Relative to Section 10 Process, processing time of applications is quick and requires minimal staff time.



2008-2010 Projects (25-29 per year)

- Northwest Fisheries Science Center
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- University of Idaho
- Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Fish Passage Center
- Corps of Engineers
- Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
- Kintama Research
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- University of Washington
- Yakama Tribe



Questions?

