



Finding Balance:
An Example of a Multi-species
Management Conflict

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Introduction

- Potential actions that are beneficial to one species may not be for another
- The cascade effect
- Seeking balance with limited resources
- A recent example – Head of Old River Barrier (HORB)

HORB and delta smelt

- HORB and agricultural barriers installed in the spring and fall
- Barriers change hydrodynamics in the central and south Delta
- DSWG has recommended that the spring HORB not be installed
- Hydrology has prevented installation

HORB and SJ Chinook Salmon

- Chinook smolt survival is higher with HORB
- Removal of HORB causes a cascade effect



- No HORB
 - VAMP
 - Modified to meet the SJRA/1995 WQCP
 - No VAMP
 - Return to the conditions set in the 1995 WQCP
- Reconsultation of the NOAA Fisheries OCAP BO

Finding Balance

- No HORB - Protecting delta smelt
 - Increase SJR flows for SJ Chinook
 - Reduce exports for SJ Chinook
- HORB - Protecting SJ Chinook
 - Increase SJR flows for delta smelt
 - Reduce exports for delta smelt
- Role of EWA ?
 - Augment SJ flows
 - Export reductions

Conclusions

- Managers are going to continue facing these conflicts
 - Need to incorporate science to assess long-reaching impacts of actions.
 - Need to find alternatives that can increase protection for multiple species.