

Fish Action Decision Process

The first EWA fish action was implemented in January 2001. Since that time the process used to decide when and where to use EWA assets has steadily evolved to include multiple groups, the use of decision trees/matrices for salmon and Delta smelt, and improved real-time communications.

In general, the authority to take an EWA fish action resides with the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) after getting input from the Data Assessment Team, b2 Interagency Team, and the EWA Team. Other groups with specific interests or expertise are also consulted on an as-needed basis. The following descriptions identify the main groups involved and describe their particular role in the process.

Water Operations Management Team (WOMT)

Consists of management-level participants from the Project and Management Agencies. Meets weekly to provide oversight and decision making that must routinely occur in the CALFED Ops process. Relies heavily on the DAT, B2IT, and EWAT for recommendations on fishery actions. It also uses the CALFED Ops Group to communicate with stakeholders.

Environmental Water Account Team (EWAT)

Members are from the Project and Management Agencies. Meets weekly to manage water purchased or gained through operational flexibility for at-risk species. EWAT also coordinates with the B2IT, DAT, and WOMT to develop strategies that maximize benefits derived from implementation of actions under the CVPIA and EWA program.

B2 Interagency Team (B2IT)

Technical staff from the Project and Management Agencies. Meets weekly to discuss implementation of section 3406 (b)(2) of the CVPIA which defines the dedication of CVP water supply for environmental purposes. Communicates with EWAT, DAT, and WOMT to ensure coordination.

- Members – USBR, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, DWR and DFG
- Meets weekly or bi-weekly as needed to review CVP operations, produce forecasts of operations, review b(2) daily accounting and resolve issues at a technical level.
- Forecasts produced monthly with b(1) and b(2) action placeholders.
- Hypothetical daily operation created using actual hydrology.
- Daily accounting done by a comparison of the hypothetical base operations to actual operations (not including EWA or water augmentation tools).

Data Assessment Team (DAT)

Technical staff from Project and Management Agencies, as well as stakeholders. Meets weekly to review real-time information relating to fish movement, location, and behavior. The DAT makes recommendations regarding potential changes in project operations to protect fish.

Operations and Fishery Forum (OFF)

Stakeholder-driven process to disseminate information regarding recommendations and decisions about the operations of the CVP and SWP. OFF members are considered the contact person for their respective agency or interest group. The OFF may be directed by the CALFED Ops Group to develop recommendations on operational responses for issues of concern raised by member agencies.

CALFED Operations Group

Consists of the Project Agencies, Management Agencies, SWRCB staff, and US EPA. Meets monthly in a public setting with stakeholders to discuss operations of the CVP and SWP, implementation of the CVPIA and EWA, and coordination of endangered species protection.

Fisheries Technical Teams

American River Operations Work Group (AROG)

AROG is open to anyone, but generally includes representatives from several agencies and organizations with on-going concerns regarding the management of the lower American River. Meets monthly or on an as-needed basis during periods of concern, with the purpose of providing fishery updates and recommendations for operations beneficial to fish resources in the lower American River.

Sacramento River Temperature Task Group

Multi-agency group formed pursuant to SWRCB Water Rights Orders 90-5 and 91-1, to assist with meeting Sacramento River temperature objectives to improve and stabilize the winter-run chinook population on the Sacramento River.

Delta Smelt Working Group

Consists of representatives from FWS, CDFG, CDWR, USEPA, USBR, and the California Bay-Delta Authority. This group meets on an as-needed basis in response to triggers incorporated into the Delta Smelt Risk Assessment Matrix (DSRAM), which is part of the FWS Biological Opinion on the Coordinated Operations of the CVP and SWP and the Operations Criteria and Plan (July 2004). The Working Group makes

recommendations pertaining to export reductions, south Delta barrier operations, San Joaquin flows, and Delta cross-channel gate operations.

Delta Cross-Channel Project Work Team

A multi-agency group whose purpose is to determine and evaluate the effects of DCC gate operations on Delta hydrodynamics, water quality, and fish migration.

Other Groups

San Joaquin River Management Group

VAMP Technical Group

Ecosystem Restoration Program Implementing Agency Managers
(ERPIAM's – USF&WS, NOAA Fisheries, CDFG)

EWP Core Team (USF&WS, NOAA Fisheries, CDFG,DWR, USBR, DOJ)

AFRP Habitat Restoration Coordinators

Ecosystem Restoration Program Subcommittee

EWA Science Advisors

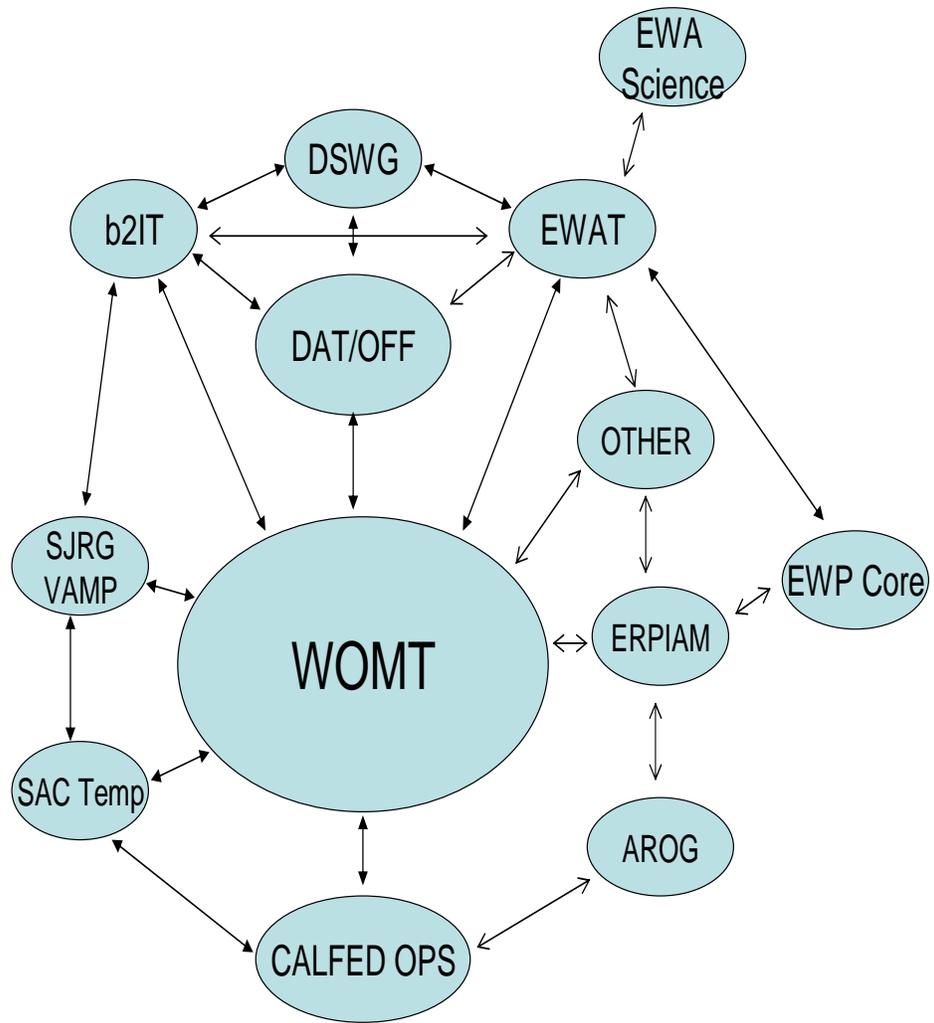


Figure 1. Diagram of the groups involved in real-time fish monitoring, project operations, and coordination between environmental water programs.