

## Peer Review Plan

**Date:** 5/7/2025

**Source Center:** U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)  
Southwest Biological Science Center  
2255 N. Gemini Drive  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**Title:** Rapid Structured Decision-making for Delta Smelt Summer-Fall Freshwater Outflow Management.

**Subject and Purpose:** California water managers are confronted with contentious and difficult decisions involving tradeoffs between habitat for economically important fisheries, water deliveries for agriculture or municipalities, cultural and tribal values, recreation, wildlife habitat, and water quality, among others, in the Central Valley of California, USA. These decisions involve altering the timing and magnitude of water releases from dams and reservoirs. In this study, multi-criterial decision analysis tools were used to assist management agencies in confronting these tradeoffs through facilitated structured decision making (SDM) workshops involving multiple stakeholders and rightsholders, in addition to Federal and State management agencies, between February and March 2025. This product covers use of a rapid structured decision-making process to support coordinated water management operations for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project in 2025. This product will be released as a USGS Open-File Report.

**Impact of Dissemination:** This product is considered by the USGS to be Influential Scientific Information.

**Timing of Review (Including Deferrals):** May - July 2025. Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.

**Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process:** Review will be by individual email/letters/memoranda/documents. The USGS will select reviewers in accordance with the requirements found in Survey Manual (SM) chapter SM 502.3 -Fundamental Science Practices: Peer Review.

**Expected Number of Reviewers:** Three peer reviewers are anticipated.

**Requisite Expertise:** Decision analysis, hydrology, fisheries biology, water quality, and water planning.

**Opportunity for Public Comment:** No opportunity for public comment is formally incorporated by the USGS for this product.

**Agency Contact:** [peer\\_review\\_agenda@usgs.gov](mailto:peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov).