

# NEWSLETTER

November 2020

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## A Decade of Work for Sharing Fish Data along the West Coast

The Coordinated Assessments Partnership (CAP) is a collaboration among federal, tribal, state, tribal consortia, interstate compacts, and other organizations to improve access to standardized fish information across the Pacific Northwest, including the Columbia River Basin.

The data accessed through the Coordinated Assessments Data Exchange (CAX) is the best available data collected and shared by the CAP partners' fish biologists, data managers, and data stewards. These data inform regional reporting, assessments, and decisions.

The CAP was initiated in 2010, with data flow starting in 2015. During the past decade, CAP expanded its high level indicator (HLI) data categories and geography, focusing on HLIs of regional interest identified in its Five-Year [Plan](#) (page 4). The CAP is co-sponsored by Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership and StreamNet Program (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission).

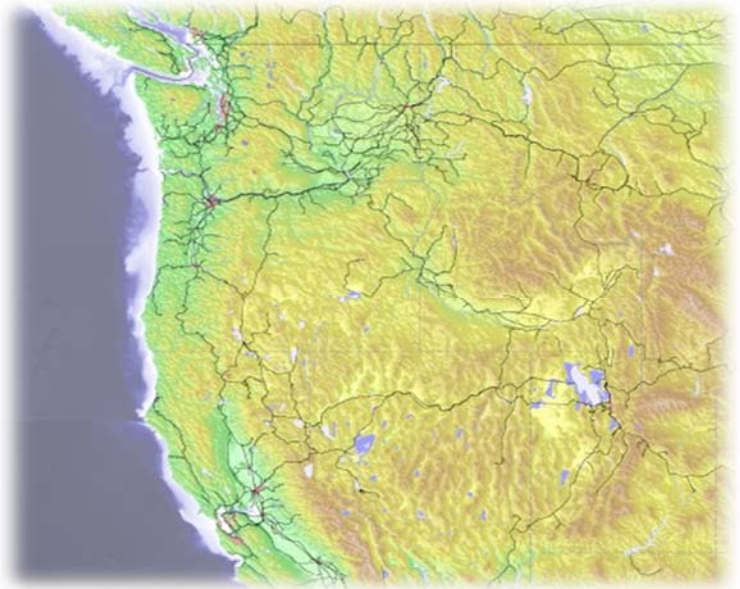


Photo: WDFW



Photo: SFEQ

Biologists collecting data that will be shared with others in the Pacific Northwest.



Photo: WDFW

## Spotlight: WDFW's Biological Data Systems

Common datasets to inform population analysis and management decision-making processes are needed at local and regional scales. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) supports this need by: 1) developing and improving biological data systems that satisfy the shared co-management goals of the 1991 Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program ([SSHIAP](#)), and 2) developing data systems used to inform management decisions and facilitate external data sharing.

In recent years, the Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) has funded several cooperative data exchange projects in collaboration with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) including:

- *Juvenile Migrant Exchange (JMX)* - Developed in 2009, and funded by an EPA Exchange Network grant, the JMX is a data exchange and back end databases for storing raw and analytical data for juvenile salmonid migrant trapping studies.
- *Nearshore Data Exchange (NDX)* - Initiated in 2012 and funded by an EPA Exchange Network grant, the NDX houses and exchanges nearshore and estuary data.
- *Adult Fish Exchange (AFX)* - In use since 2014, the EPA Exchange Network grant-funded project captures and exchanges adult salmonid estimate data.
- *AFX-SGS* - Active since 2016, the database contains spawning ground data.

Other projects include:

- Combined Harvest Reporting database was initiated in 2018 to house sport, commercial and tribal catch data

In 2019, NWIFC and WDFW began work on the Fish Management Data Exchange (FMX) which extends and combines the capabilities of the above databases. This exchange, still in development, will permit the management and exchange of harvest, hatchery, traps (both adult and juvenile), and spawning ground survey data.

Data sets managed in these projects inform broader regional information needs and are intended to provide co-manager vetted, high quality, consistent derived estimates, and supporting data.

## Data Sharing Update

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Update

In 2019 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-Fisheries put out a call for best available data to inform the 5-Year Status Review for Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon and steelhead in the region. Meetings were held with co-managers throughout the Columbia River Basin, and co-managers committed to submitting data. Most co-managers chose to provide NOAA access to their data via the Coordinated Assessments Data Exchange (CAX), with >95% of Columbia River Basin data being accessed via CAX in 2020, an increase from 2015 when CAX had 75% of the data. Sharing data via the CAX provides NOAA-Fisheries with standardized data, metadata, and a transparent exchange for easy data citation. The NOAA-Fisheries and the Coordinated Assessments Partnership (CAP) are interested in making this option available to the rest of the West Coast Region. StreamNet received funding from the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act grant to support CAP outreach beyond the Columbia River Basin in 2021.

### Nez Perce Tribe Is now Flowing Data into the CAX

We are excited to have the Nez Perce Tribe as a new data provider who started submitting high-level indicator data to the CAX in 2020. The Nez Perce Tribe joins the growing group of participants including the two tribes, 3 states, 1 federal, and 3 other organizations currently flowing data into the CAX. The CAP looks forward to additional tribes initiating data submittal in upcoming years.

Coordinated  
Assessments Data  
Exchange (CAX)

5

High-level  
Indicators

193

Columbia River  
Populations

69

Priority  
Populations

56

Oregon Coast  
Populations

<https://cax.streamnet.org/>



Photo: NPPC

## 2020 Improvements to the Data Exchange Standards

Ensuring the best data are accessible through the Coordinated Assessments Data Exchange (CAX) is an ongoing task. In 2020 the Coordinated Assessments Partnership (CAP) Data Exchange Standard (DES) Development Team rectified definitions for natural-origin spawner abundance. The changes led to more accurate descriptions of each estimate as either 1) escapement to a location or 2) number of fish available to spawn. This is critical to ensure proper use of the data in analyses and reports because the latter represents fish alive at the spawning grounds during spawning season while the former being fish that have not yet arrived at the spawning grounds. New fields were also added for escapement timing and location. The new version of the Coordinated Assessments Partnership DES document took effect July 15, 2020 ([DES version 20200715](#)).

## EPA Selects CAP HCAX Proposal

Sharing hatchery high-level indicators (HLIs) has been a priority in the Five-Year Plan for Coordinated Assessments Partnership (CAP) since 2015. We are excited to announce that the Hatchery Coordinated Assessments Exchange (HCAX) proposal submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency's FY2020 Exchange Network Grant Solicitation was selected.

The CAP co-sponsors (Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership and StreamNet Program), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office submitted the HCAX proposal. Work with CAP partners will begin in 2021 to: 1) discuss hatchery HLIs, 2) develop data exchange standards, 3) form data sharing agreements, 4) develop XML Schema, and 5) start data flow in 2023.



## Five-Year Work Plan

The current Five-Year Plan for the Coordinated Assessments Partnership (CAP) was adopted in 2019 and revised in 2020. Annual review and revisions by the StreamNet Executive Committee ensures that the plan aligns with regional priorities. A highlight of some of the 2021 priorities include:

1. Maintain, update, and automate existing data flow to CAX, refining the data exchange standards for existing salmon and steelhead high-level indicators (HLIs).
2. Coordinate with CRITFC tribes through the Inter-Tribal Monitoring Data Project.
3. Work with federal, state, and tribal natural resource managers through the PNAMP Fish Monitoring Work Group to refine the current CAP Data Exchange Standard, and, as directed by the Executive Committee, work on new HLI categories such as hatchery fish, white sturgeon, and carrying capacity.

### CAP Participants

*participants vary in their level and degree of involvement*



For more information:

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For Coordinated Assessments Data Exchange (CAX) technical assistance:  
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### To Learn More

**CAX Data Query Mapper:** <https://cax.streamnet.org/>

**CAX DES:** <https://www.streamnet.org/coordinated-assessments-des/>

**Five-Year Plan for Coordinated Assessments Partnership:** <https://www.streamnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Five-Year-Plan-for-Coordinated-Assessments-rev20200902-Final.doc>

**Additional CAP Documents:**

Technical: <https://www.streamnet.org/data/coordinated-assessments/>

Events and background: <https://www.pnamp.org/project/coordinated-assessments-for-salmon-and-steelhead>

**StreamNet:** <https://www.streamnet.org/>

**StreamNet Committees:** <https://www.streamnet.org/resources/documents-and-publications/streamnet-executive-committee/>

**PNAMP:** <https://www.pnamp.org/>

**PNAMP Fish Monitoring Workgroup:** <https://www.pnamp.org/project/fish-monitoring-work-group>