

WHAT WE LEARNED

Below are certain things the DEFT learned during the EWA gaming process:

1. The EWA is very advantageous but not sufficient for recovery of depressed salmon populations and probably the delta smelt population.
2. The EWA significantly increases the efficiency of fish protection in the context of water deliveries and vice-versa.
3. Advantages in fish protection efficiency come with certain identifiable risks, including:
 - *Possible* reduced protection of important, genetically mediated variations in life history strategies expressed by small portions of populations;
 - Unforeseen meteorological and other events affecting an ongoing EWA strategy;
 - The possibility of anomalous water years or series of years affecting an EWA debt-repayment strategy.
4. The appropriate size and composition of the EWA "account" and asset mix depends entirely on the proportion of the burden for fish population recovery that managers and policy-makers decide to place on the shoulders of the EWA.
5. EWA assets will probably be more efficiently allocated in the long run by including non-water manipulation actions into the mix.

Number 4 is by far the most important of these.