



One Water and Stewardship Committee

# Update on Voluntary Agreements

Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Item 6b

April 10, 2023

# Agreements Update

## Agenda

- Overview and Schedule Update
- Scientific Basis Report
- Conclusions and Next Steps

# Agreements Overview



# Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

HOW THE AGREEMENTS WORK +

WHY ARE THE AGREEMENTS NEEDED? +

THE AGREEMENTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT +

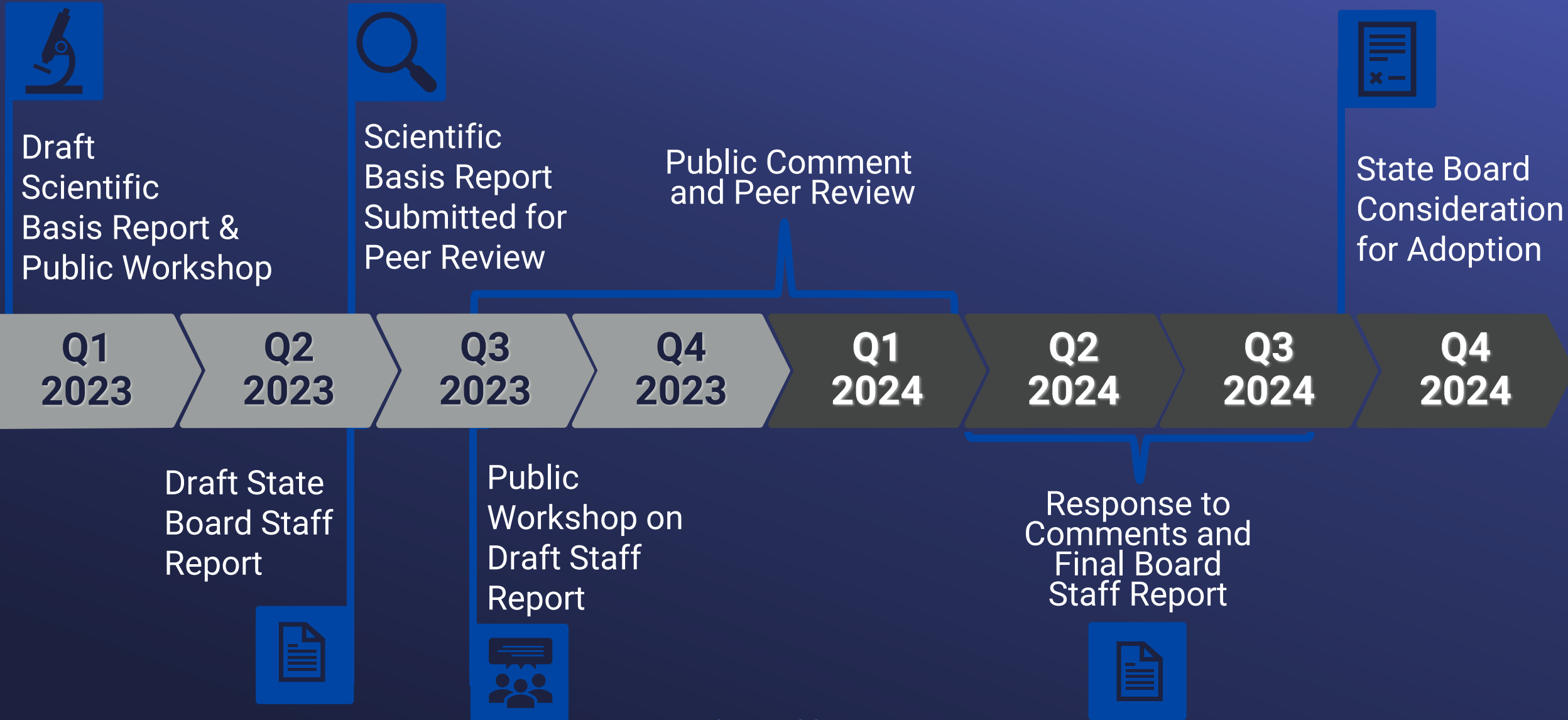
AGREEMENT COLLABORATORS +

## RESOURCES

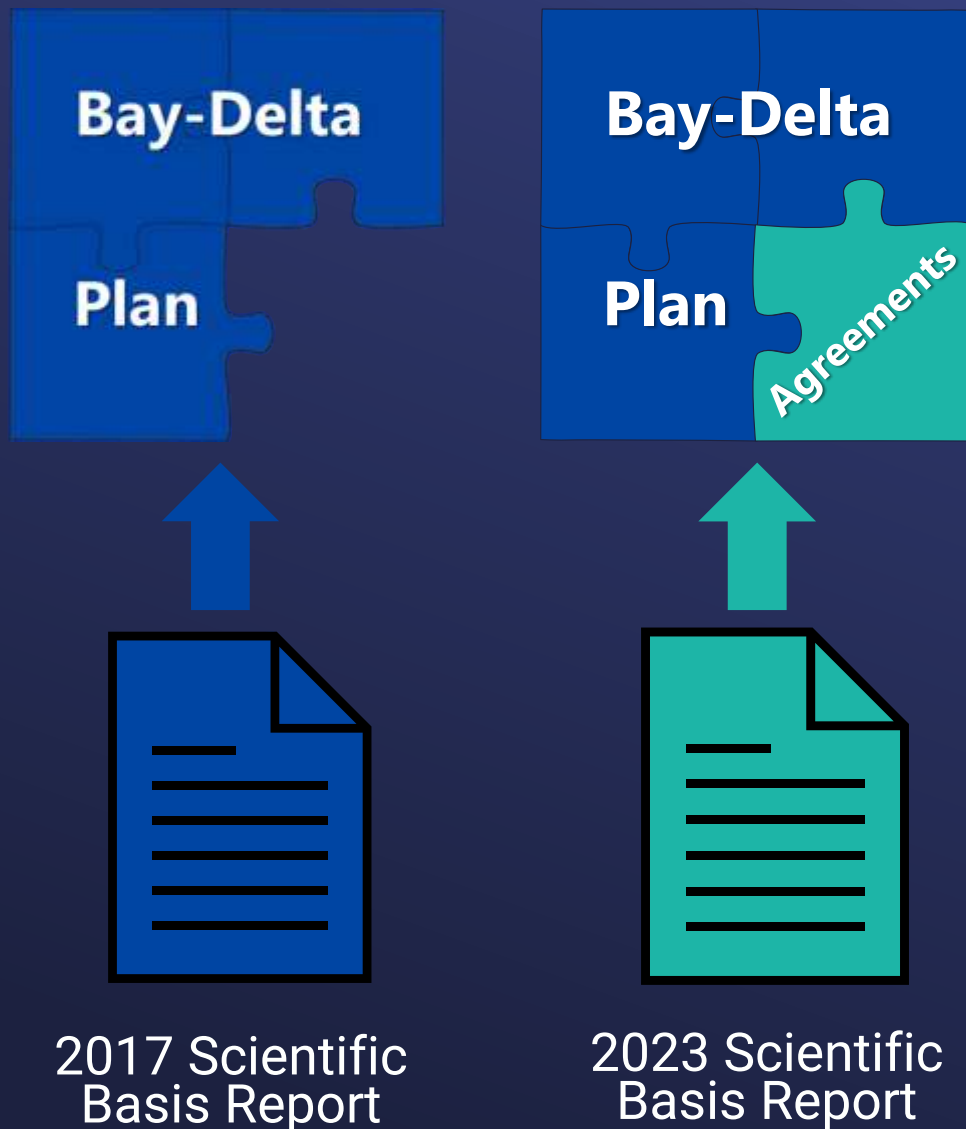
- Frequently Asked Questions
- MOU
- Recent Public Announcements
- State Water Board Draft Scientific Basis Report

<https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Voluntary-Agreements-Page>

# Agreement Timeline\*



# Draft Scientific Basis Report (2023)



- Increase tributary flows and Delta outflow
- Increase off-stream habitat
- Increase estuarine habitat area and species abundance

# Report Evaluates Effects of Agreement

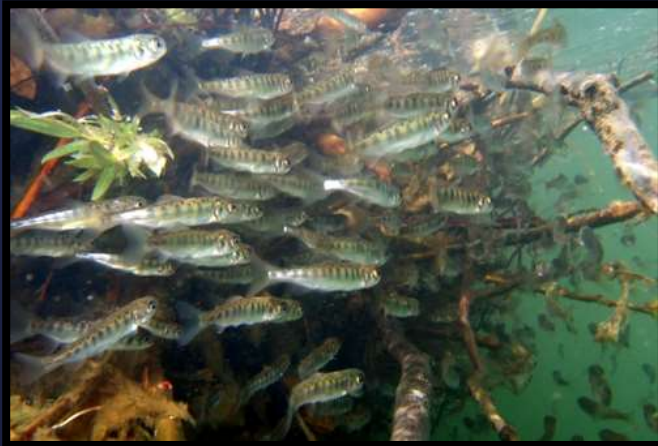
Spawning habitat



Bay-Delta habitat



Rearing habitat



Estuarine fish abundances



# Spawning Habitat Targets Met

- All rivers meet target: American, Feather, Mokelumne, Sacramento, Yuba
- Mokelumne, Sacramento, and Yuba exceed target





# Rearing Habitat Target in Some Rivers

- Mokelumne and Yuba meet target
- Adding off-stream habitat helps meet target
- Sacramento River: supplemented with 20,000 acres in bypasses
- Feather River: modifications to bypasses may increase habitat



Summary of median rearing habitat from Figure ES-2 in Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement In Support of Proposed Voluntary Agreements For The Sacramento River, Delta, and Tributaries Update To The San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Water Quality Control Plan, January 2023

# Bay-Delta Habitat Increases



- Spring habitat ↑ 2.1-5.8%
- Summer-Fall habitat ↑ 0.1-8.8%



- Spring-Summer habitat ↑ 3.4-5.0%



- Winter-Spring habitat ↑ 0-14.2%

Spring is defined as March-May; summer is defined as June-August; fall is defined as September-November; and winter is defined as December-February. Range in projected increases in habitat area within relevant seasons for each species from Table ES-3 in *Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement In Support of Proposed Voluntary Agreements For The Sacramento River, Delta, and Tributaries Update To The San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Water Quality Control Plan*, January 2023

# Estuarine Fish Abundance Increases

- Abundance increases in critical, dry, below normal and above normal water year types
- Multiple species benefit



Sacramento Splittail

2 to 10% ↑



Longfin Smelt

2 to 14% ↑



California Bay Shrimp

2 to 11% ↑



Stary Flounder

2 to 9% ↑

# Conclusions and Next Steps

- Draft scientific basis report concluded that the agreements will contribute to:
  - Increased spawning and rearing habitat
  - Increased off-stream habitat
  - Increased estuarine habitat area and species abundance
- Future Steps:
  - Scientific basis report will inform State Board decision
- Near term steps:
  - Public and peer review through Q1 2024\*
  - State team revising report based on comments received
  - State Board consideration for Adoption Q4 2024\*

