

## **9.0 CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **9.1 INTRODUCTION**

This section discusses NOAA Fisheries' obligation to develop conservation recommendations under Section 7(a)(1) of the ESA, which states in part:

“All other Federal agencies shall, in consultation with and with the assistance of the Secretary, utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this Act by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered species and threatened species listed pursuant to section 4 of this Act.”

In this Biological Opinion, the existence of the dams and reservoirs in the FCRPS is considered part of the Environmental Baseline. As a result, NOAA Fisheries has determined that the Action Agencies are not responsible for mitigating the effects of the existence of the dams and reservoirs *in order to avoid jeopardy* under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA.

NOAA Fisheries intends to develop conservation recommendations to contribute to the recovery of listed salmon and steelhead for the Action Agencies to consider in fulfilling their obligations under Section 7(a)(1). The following conservation recommendation was developed for this draft biological opinion.

### **9.2 SUBBASIN PLANNING INFRASTRUCTURE**

NOAA Fisheries recommends that the Action Agencies continue to facilitate the existing subbasin planning infrastructure to ensure that subbasin plans are implemented effectively and efficiently and are updated and modified at three-year intervals using the best available scientific information.