



COORDINATED ASSESSMENTS PARTNERSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions

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, with focus on the Columbia River Basin. The fish information 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 used for reporting in this region and identified in the CAP Five-Year [Plan](#). The CAP is co-sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership and the StreamNet Program (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission).

What is the purpose of the coordinated assessments partnership (CAP)?

- To collaboratively share fish information in an efficient and standardized manner to provide a common data source for informing reporting and decision-making processes including ESA status assessments and mitigation under the Power Act.
- The CAP focuses on the Columbia River Basin and West Coast region (Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and California), aligning with the regional data needs of West Coast NOAA, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Bonneville Power Administration, and USFWS.

Why participate in CAP?

- Provide access to your organization's (tribal, state, federal) approved estimates for fish indicators and metrics, with its metadata through a data exchange standard developed in collaboration with tribal, state, and federal natural resource managers/co-managers.
- Reduce the number of requests for providing and clarifying your data for regional reports and decision-making processes.

How are fish indicators exchanged through CAP selected?

- A need for a data category to be exchanged as a CAP fish indicator can be identified by any tribal, state, federal, tribal consortia, and regional coalitions.
- The request is discussed by the CAP/StreamNet Executive Committee to understand who needs the information, whether the required data are available, and effort that would be needed to provide the data in the needed format (e.g. analysis, standards) for the exchange to be successful.

Who decides what data are to be exchanged?

- The tribal, state and federal natural resource organizations that have management responsibilities over the data.
 - Biologists from these organizations who have the needed expertise determine what data are appropriate and, what, if any, analyses are needed. These experts define the data fields that inform the data exchange standards.
 - Data managers/stewards from these organizations convert data sets to the data exchange standards, flow the data to the CAP's coordinated assessments data exchange (CAX), and decide when these data are ready to be published (displayed).

CAP FAQs

Who determines the data exchange standards to be followed?

- The tribal, state and federal natural resource organizations that submit data collaborate on the development and revisions of data exchange standards:
- Data managers/stewards from these organizations participate in the development of the first data exchange standard (DES)
- Members of the CAP Data Exchange Standards Development Team (DDT) discuss issues and revise the DES as needed
- StreamNet staff facilitate the DDT meetings, maintain the DES version, update the CAX, and addresses issues.

How much resources (time and money) will I need to commit to CAP?

- This varies depending on what you determine is correct for your situation. There are broadly three levels of engagement:
- CAP Participant – follow the published DES and submit their data either directly through the API connected to CAX or through another tribal/federal/state organization.
- CAP Contributor – participate in the development and revisions of DES by being CAP DDT member, and also participate in special work groups and workshops convened by the CAP co-sponsors (PNAMP and StreamNet).
- CAP Partners – provide policy guidance on new data categories to be exchanged and in the development/revision of DES. Partners are members of the StreamNet/CAP Executive Committee, CAP DDT member, and also participate in special work groups and workshops convened by the CAP co-sponsors (PNAMP and StreamNet).

When and why was CAP formed?

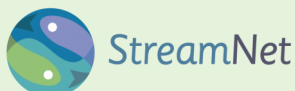
- The CAP was initiated in the Columbia River Basin in 2010 to support data sharing and basinwide assessments for salmon and steelhead for NOAA ESA status assessments, Bonneville Power Administration BiOP/EIS reporting, and Northwest Power and Conservation Council Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program reporting.
- The CAP was driven by the needs of tribal, federal, and state natural resources organizations to improve data management by building their infrastructure and data sharing capacity.
- The success of CAP continues to grow to respond to regional data needs as directed by the CAP/StreamNet Executive Committee.
- The CAP is co-sponsored by PNAMP and StreamNet, and when it first started by its third sponsor CBFWA (inactive).

Contact CAP Sponsors

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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>

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