

IPaC Overview



March 2023



<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation

LOG IN



IPaC is a project planning tool that streamlines the USFWS environmental review process

GET STARTED

LOG IN

Do Testing/Training Here:



<https://ipacb.ecosphere.fws.gov/>

Integrate the environmental review process into your project design

Quickly and easily identify USFWS managed resources and suggested conservation measures for your project.

Explore species and habitat

See if any listed species¹, critical habitat, migratory birds or other natural resources may be impacted by your project.

Conduct a regulatory review

Log in and define a project to get an official species list and evaluate potential impacts on resources managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

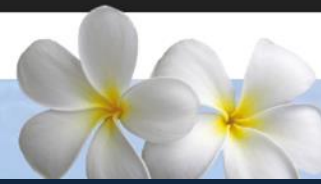
Build a Consultation Package

Consultation Package Builder (CPB) replaces and improves on the original Impact Analysis by providing an interactive, step-by-step process to help

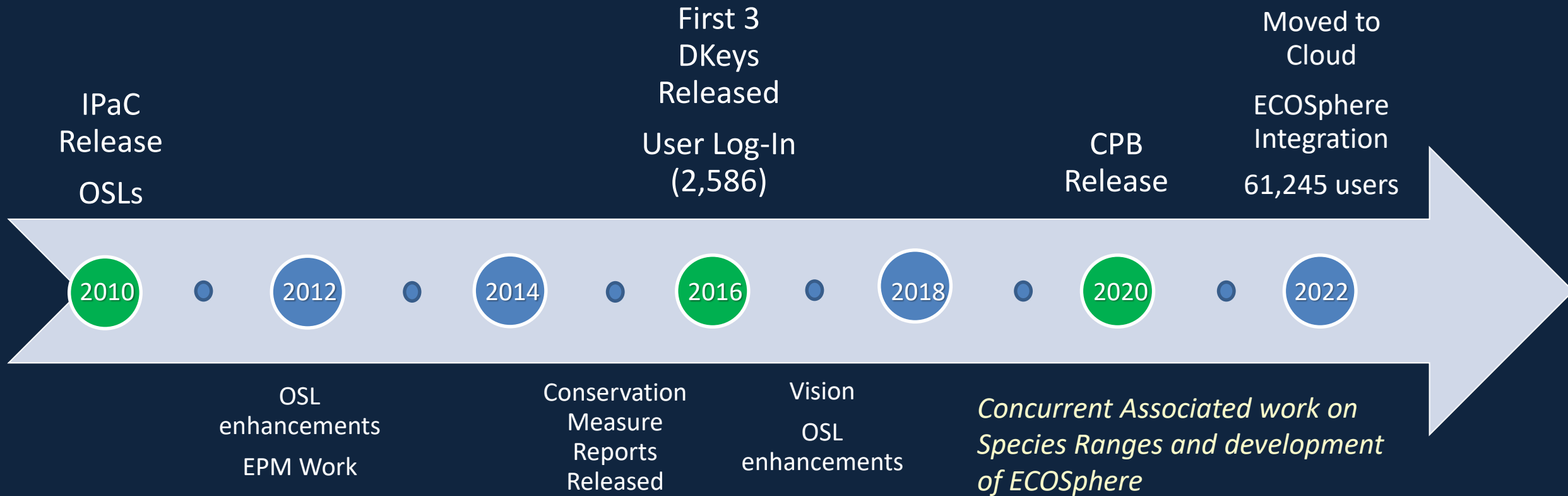
IPaC Vision



IPaC will transform interagency cooperation by delivering efficient 21st-century consultations and greatly improving regulatory consistency, predictability, transparency, and conservation outcomes.



IPaC Functionality Timeline



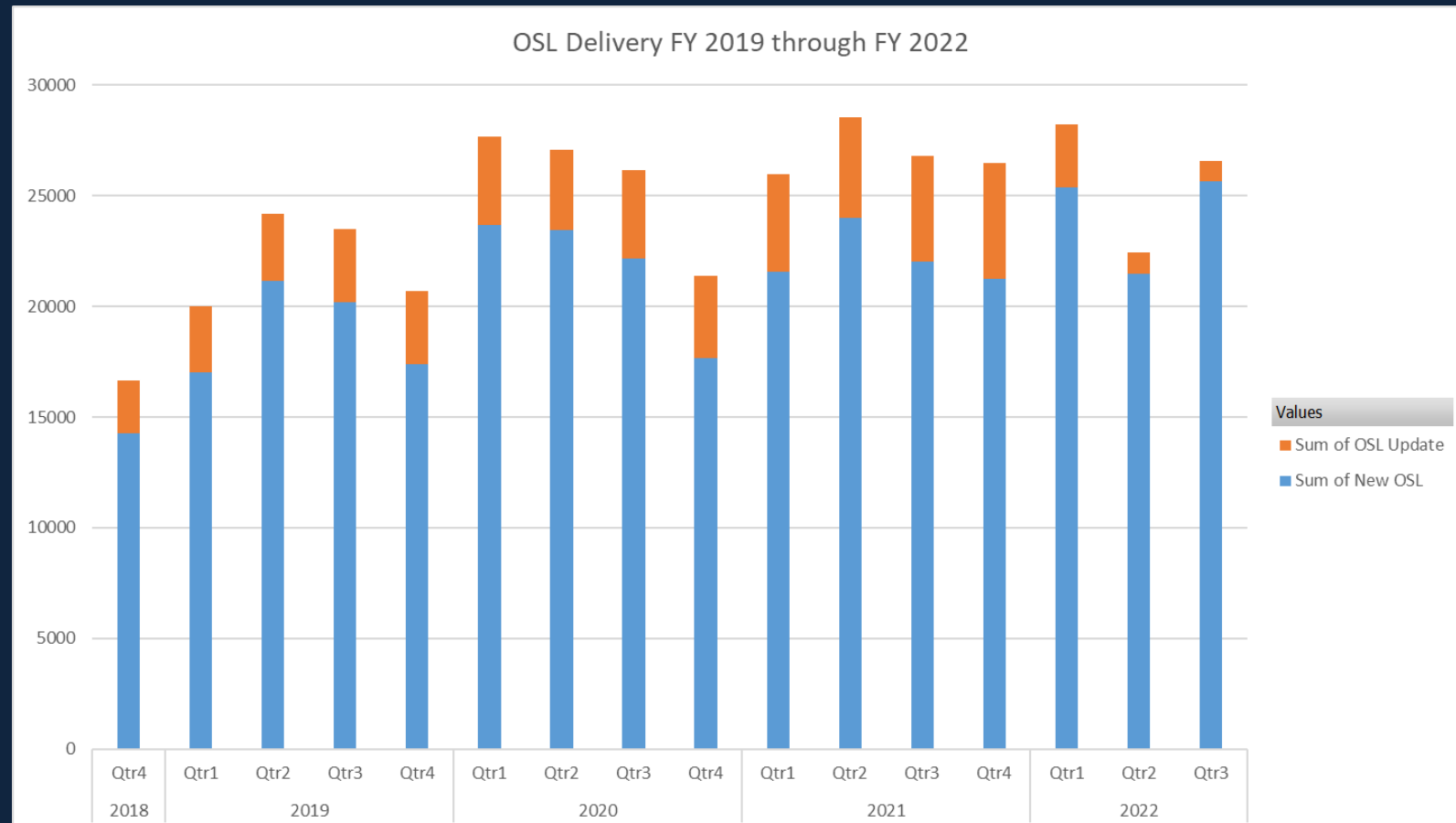
OSL – Official Species List
 EPM – Effects Pathway Manager
 DKey – Determination Key
 CPB – Consultation Package Builder

As of Dec. 31, 2022, IPaC has 62,041 registered users

IPaC: OSL Delivery



- **Nearly 308,000 OSL delivered in last 3 years**
- **2022 Average = 8,638/month**
- **116 Species have additional helpful info**



Determination Keys (DKeys)

Logically-structured sets of questions which assist a user in determining whether a project qualifies for a predetermined consultation outcome based on an existing programmatic consultation or internal standing analysis.



WOOD STORK KEY

Although designed primarily for use by Corps Project Managers in the Regulatory and Planning Divisions, and State Regulatory agencies or their designees, project permit applicants and co-sponsors of civil works projects may find this key and its supporting documents useful in identifying potential project impacts to wood storks, and planning how best to avoid, minimize, or compensate for any identified adverse effects.

- A. Project within 2,500 feet of an active colony site¹.....*May affect*
Project more than 2,500 feet from a colony site.....go to B
- B. Project does not affect suitable foraging habitat² (SFH).....*no effect*
Project impacts SFH².....go to C
- C. Project impacts to SFH are less than or equal to 0.5 acre³.....*NLAA*⁴
Project impacts to SFH are greater than or equal to 0.5 acre.....go to D

- **Dkeys are essentially dichotomous keys and are not new to IPaC.**
- **20 are currently available in IPaC & 10 more are in development**

Benefits of DKeys in IPaC

Enhanced Screening/Delivery Capability

- Leverage geospatial data to automatically answer questions
- Track the use and implementation of programmatic consultations
- Deliver automated concurrence letters

Consistency/Time Savings

- Projects screened in IPaC are automatically written to ECOSphere (FWS project tracking platform) in the same manner every time
- As DKeys come for shared species, IPaC facilitates conversations between the offices to close the gap if they have been regulating the same species differently (DKey users see consistent logic)

Transparency

- DKey users see the same questions and determinations each time
- IPaC users can clearly see the logic behind Programmatic outcomes





Consultation Package Builder

The CPB helps users compile a complete Biological Assessment & Consultation Package *before* submitting a consultation request.

CPB:

- ❖ Assists users in developing a good action area
- ❖ Helps users analyze and document all potential effects and conservation actions associated with a proposed project
- ❖ Leverages data from FWS's Effect Pathway Manager (EPM) in detail to provide helpful suggestions and recommendations for analyzing a project
- ❖ Provides a consistently formatted biological analysis document

IPaC ~ Other time saved / value added

	OSL Issued (w/ updates)	DKey Docs issued	Dkeys on Prod.	Est. FWS Time Saved (hours)	Est. IPaC user Time Saved (weeks)
FY19	84,342	9,151	6	24,435	6,537
FY20	101,653	17,989	8	33,104	12,849
FY21	102,673	20,996	12	36,022	14,997
FY22	103,654	23,425	15	40,690	16,732
Combined	392,322	71,561	15	134,251	51,115

Real Time Project reporting from ECOSphere:

<https://reports.ecosphere.fws.gov/SAMSReports/Reports/Index?reportname=ECOSphereDashboard3>

OTHER IPAC VALUE

- For each DKey - IPaC users previously may have waited 1-4 weeks for an initial response, even for concurrence on simple projects
- Savings (\$) on consumables by sending less paper documents (e.g., paper, ink, postage)
- More accurate OSLs and easier use of programmatic consultations through DKeys (more consistent & transparent)
- *Improved consultation requests needing less RAIs that include BAs generated through CPB (time savings)*



IPaC Environments

Production (aka Live) IPaC ~ <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>

Use Production IPaC for actual projects.

Official species lists and DKey correspondence created in Production IPaC are written to the FWS Project and Workflow Tracking Database as records and generate e-mail notifications to the appropriate FWS Field Office.

Beta (aka Test) IPaC ~ <https://ipacb.ecosphere.fws.gov/>

Use Beta IPaC for testing and touring IPaC and checking out the features.

All features on Production are available on Beta. Projects and documents generated on Beta **are not logged** to the FWS Project and Workflow Tracking Database and **do not generate** emails to local FWS Field Offices.



IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation

Powered by ECOS - the Environmental Conservation Online System

THANK YOU!

Please email us anytime:
fwhq_ipac@fws.gov