

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 19-20, 2016

**14C. OTHER INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – FEDERAL AGENCIES REPORT****Today's Item**Information Action 

Standing agenda item to receive reports on any recent federal agency activities of interest not otherwise addressed under other agenda items.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)****Background**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):** NOAA indicates that year-to-date, the average global temperature was 1.82 degrees F above average, breaking the heat record set in 2015 by 0.29 degrees and continuing a 16-month trend of record-breaking heat for the globe (Exhibit C1).

**National Marine Fisheries Service:** Nations exporting fish and fish products to the U.S. will now have to meet the same fishing standards for protecting marine mammals as U.S. fishermen must meet (Exhibit C2).

**U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI):** DOI recently released [a study that indicates climate change](#) is the biggest threat to treasured resources in national parks. DOI has identified seven iconic views that are at risk, including the twisted and spiked Joshua trees found in the California park bearing their name. (Exhibit C3).

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** A nearly century old water intake has been replaced on the Sacramento River to protect endangered salmon, steelhead and sturgeon from the deadly pull of water pumps, while also providing improved water supply reliability for eastern Yolo County (Exhibit C4).

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [NOAA news release: August marks ongoing trend of record-breaking heat for the globe, Sep 20, 2016](#)
2. [NMFS news release: NOAA Fisheries establishes international marine mammal bycatch criteria for U.S. imports, Aug 11, 2016](#)
3. [DOI blog: 7 Iconic Views at Risk from Climate Change, Oct 6, 2016](#)
4. [USFWS news release: New Fish Screen and Water Intake Facility Improves Fish Passage on the Sacramento River, Sep 13, 2016](#)

**Motion/Direction (N/A)**

# August marks ongoing trend of record-breaking heat for the globe

September 20, 2016



**Put away your party hats: August marks a not-so-sweet 16 months of record warmth for the globe, the longest such streak in 137 years.**

August 2016 was 1.66 degrees F above the 20th-century average, breaking last years' record for the warmest August on record by 0.09 degrees F, according to scientists from NOAA's [National Centers for Environmental Information](#). The June–August seasonal temperature was 1.6 degrees F above average, surpassing the heat record for this period set in 2015 by 0.07 degrees.

For the year to date, the average global temperature was 1.82 degrees F above average, also breaking the heat record set in 2015 by 0.29 degrees.

# Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events August 2016

## GLOBAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

August 2016 average global land and ocean temperature was the highest for August since records began in 1880.

## ARCTIC SEA ICE EXTENT

August 2016 sea ice extent was 23.1 percent below the 1981–2010 average—the fourth smallest August sea ice extent since satellite records began in 1979.

## ASIA

Asia had its highest August temperature departure on record. Record warmth was observed across parts of western Asia, southern India, and across much of China.

## EUROPE

Much of central Europe had below-average precipitation during August 2016, while northern and southeastern parts had wetter-than-average conditions.

## KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

August 2016 mean temperature was the second highest August temperature since records began in 1902.

## CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES

Above-average precipitation was widespread across the Mississippi Valley. Parts of Louisiana observed record rainfall and devastating floods.

## AFRICA

Warmer- to much-warmer-than-average conditions prevailed across much of Africa during August 2016. Record warmth conditions were recorded across much of central and southern Africa. As a whole, this was Africa's warmest August since continental records began in 1910.

## ISLAND OF FIJI

Precipitation totals across Fiji were above to much above average. Eighteen out of 26 stations recorded twice their normal monthly precipitation totals during August 2016.

## NORTH AMERICA

North America had its sixth highest August temperature departure since continental records began in 1910.

## SOUTH AMERICA

Warmer to much-warmer-than-average conditions engulfed the continent, with record warmth observed across parts of the north. Overall, it was the second highest August temperature departure since continental records began in 1910, behind 2015.

## SOUTH AMERICA

Precipitation across South America was mixed, with eastern Colombia, southern Chile, and southern Brazil observing above-average precipitation. Meanwhile, parts of the northern coast of South America, central Chile, and central Argentina had below-average precipitation.

## AUSTRALIA

Precipitation totals across Australia were above average. The national average precipitation during August 2016 was 45% above average and the 14th highest for August in the 117-year record. The Northern Territory had its highest August precipitation totals since 1974.

## ANTARCTIC SEA ICE EXTENT

August 2016 sea ice extent was 0.2 percent above the 1981–2010 average—the 19th largest August sea ice extent on record.



Please Note: Material provided in this map was compiled from NOAA's State of the Climate Reports. For more information please visit: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc>

World map of significant global climate extreme events in August 2016

August 2016 was another record-breaking month for the globe. (NOAA NCEI)

[Download Image](#)

More notable findings around the world include:

- The globally averaged sea surface temperature was second warmest on record for August and warmest on record for both the season (June–August) and the year to date (January–August).
- The globally averaged land surface temperature was record high for August, the season (June–August) and the year to date (January–August).
- Record-warm continents: Africa and Asia had their warmest August; South America had its second; North America its sixth; Europe its 10th; and Oceania its 19th.
- The average Arctic sea ice extent for August was 23.1 percent below the 1981–2010 average. This was the fourth smallest August extent since records began in 1979.
- The average Antarctic sea ice extent for August was 0.2 percent above the 1981–2010 average, the 19th largest on record for the month.

More: Access NOAA’s report and download images by visiting the [NCEI website](#).

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**NOAA FISHERIES**  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



**National Seafood Month**  
Fresh Facts, Smart Seafood  
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## NOAA Fisheries establishes international marine mammal bycatch criteria for U.S. imports

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
August 11, 2016

*Fish and fish products must meet protection standards comparable to the U.S.*

Nations exporting fish and fish products to the United States will have to meet fishing standards for protecting marine mammals equal to those American fishermen follow, under a **final rule** published today by NOAA Fisheries.

U.S. trade partners will need to show that killing or injuring marine mammals incidental to fishing activities, or bycatch, in their export fisheries do not exceed U.S. standards.

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"Fishing gear entanglements or accidental catch is a global threat to marine mammal populations," said

Eileen Sobeck, assistant NOAA administrator for fisheries. "Establishing these bycatch criteria mark a significant step forward in the global conservation of marine mammals."

The rule implements Marine Mammal Protection Act requirements, outlines ways to evaluate a nation's marine mammal bycatch reduction efforts, and sets procedures a nation must follow to receive authorization for sending their products into the United States. NOAA Fisheries will consult with harvesting nations and, to the extent possible, work with nations to build their capacity to meet the rule's standards.

"The United States is already a global leader in marine mammal conservation and sustainable, resilient fisheries," said Sobeck. "This rule demonstrates progressive global conservation and expands international collaboration for best stewardship."

The rule takes effect on January 1, and establishes a one-time-only, initial five-year exemption period to give nations time to assess their marine mammal stocks, and estimate and lower their bycatch.

Over time, NOAA Fisheries expects the rule to help safeguard the U.S. seafood supply from products harvested unsustainably, without greatly limiting consumers' seafood choices.

"NOAA carefully considered potential impacts of a fishery being unable to obtain certification under this rule, and we're confident the seafood supply chain is adequately robust to prevent any disruption to consumer access," said John Henderschedt, director of NOAA Fisheries Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection. "At the same time, NOAA intends to work closely with U.S. trading partners to ensure that their fisheries are capable of achieving certification."

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

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10/6/2016

## 7 Iconic Views at Risk from Climate Change

Climate change is the biggest threat to our national parks. It's not just a future threat -- we're seeing the impacts right now at national parks and other public lands across the country.

We must #ActOnClimate to ensure that current and future generations can enjoy America's most treasured places. If we don't, we will have to say goodbye to these iconic views:

**1. Wildflowers of Shenandoah.** Spring is coming early in 3/4 of national parks [according to a new study released this week](#). While this might not seem like a big deal, it has a huge ripple effect. As flowers bloom earlier every year, it's disrupting the link between the wildflowers and the arrival of birds, bees, and butterflies that feed on and pollinate the flowers. In Shenandoah, an earlier spring is giving invasive plants a head start, and they're displacing native wildflowers, leading to costly management issues. In Acadia, it's not just the flowers but also [bird migration](#) that's being impacted by earlier springs.



Timber Hollow Overlook at Shenandoah National Park by N. Lewis, National Park Service.

**2. The twisty, spiky trees of Joshua Tree National Park.** It's said that Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* was inspired by Joshua trees. Now life is imitating art, but this time the trees are threatened by climate change. Joshua trees require cool winters and freezing temperatures to flower and seed. [Researchers have documented substantial mortality of Joshua trees](#) and predict that because of rising temperatures,

the trees will be unable to persist much longer within Joshua Tree National Park. Soon, Joshua trees may no longer be found in the park bearing their name.



A fiery sunset over Joshua Tree National Park by Manish Mamtani ([www.sharetheexperience.org](http://www.sharetheexperience.org)).

**3. Glacier National Park's namesake.** In Glacier National Park, the effects of climate change are strikingly clear. It's estimated that [in 1850, before the park was established, there were 150 glaciers present](#). Now there are only 25 glaciers left, and [scientists predict the glaciers in Glacier will be completely gone by the year 2030](#).

While Glacier might be the face of climate change, there are countless other examples at national parks - from [North Cascades](#) to [Glacier Bay](#) -- where ice formations are disappearing because of changing precipitation patterns and warming temperatures.



Sperry glacier is one of the 25 remaining glaciers at Glacier National Park. Photo by USGS.

**4. The Statue of Liberty as we know it.** One of the most recognizable statues in the world could someday be underwater. [Sea-level rise and an increase in storm surges are putting the Statue of Liberty at risk](#) -- in 2012, Hurricane Sandy inundated the statue's island in water, causing it to close for nearly eight months of repairs.

The Statue of Liberty isn't alone in the the threat of sea-level rise. A [2015 National Park Service study](#) found that 118 parks are vulnerable to sea-level rise from climbing global temperatures. These places --

like Florida's Everglades National Park and Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina -- are popular for their unique ecosystems and vibrant recreational opportunities.



Statue of Liberty by Paul Ganas, National Park Service.

**5. The colorful coral reefs in Virgin Islands National Park.** Beyond rising sea levels, warmer ocean temperatures and more acidic waters (from increased carbon dioxide levels) are [bleaching and dissolving coral reefs around the world](#). Once a rare oddity, [coral bleaching is becoming more frequent](#), especially in places like Virgin Islands National Park.



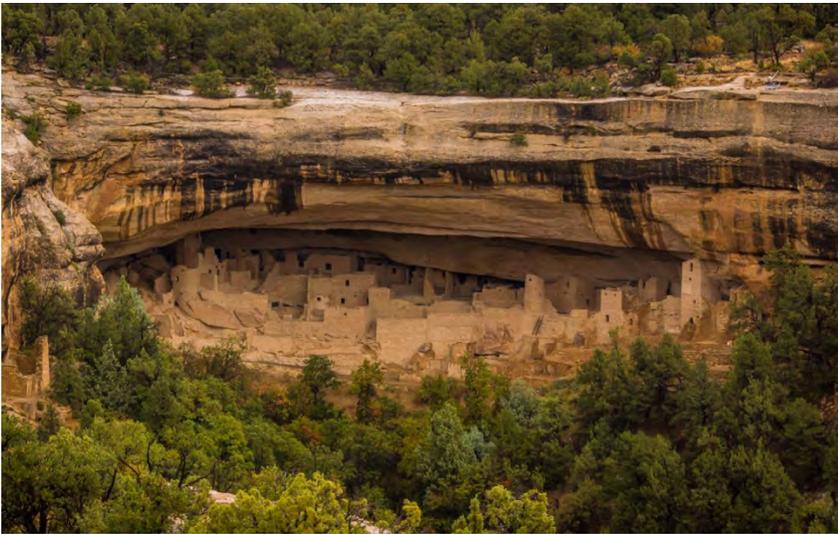
A scientist studies the coral at Virgin Islands National Park. Photo by National Park Service.

**6. Snowy winters in Yellowstone.** [Scientists have monitored Yellowstone's climate for decades, and there's no doubt that its climate is changing](#). Average temperatures are now higher than they were 50 years ago, and the park sees 30 fewer days of snow on the ground a year. Snow totals and the timing of snowmelt affect the rivers and streams of the park, which in turn impact plants and the movement of wildlife like the park's bison and cutthroat trout. [Rocky Mountain is seeing similar impacts as spring snow melts 2-3 weeks earlier](#).



Bison wade through the snow at Yellowstone National Park. Photo by Jim Peaco, National Park Service.

**7. Cultural and historic artifacts of Mesa Verde.** Located in southwest Colorado, Mesa Verde National Park is known for its ancient cliff dwellings surrounded by pinyon-juniper forests and mountain shrub. But a one-two punch of [higher temperatures and earlier snowmelt](#) is causing hotter, drier conditions in the park. This is leading to longer wildfire seasons, which threaten the park's archeological sites.



The ancient cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park. Photo by Dena Creamer ([www.sharetheexperience.org](http://www.sharetheexperience.org)).

[Explore more ways climate change is impacting national parks.](#)

<https://www.doi.gov/blog/7-iconic-views-risk-climate-change>



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Pacific Southwest Region

California, Nevada and Klamath Basin

# New Fish Screen and Water Intake Facility Improves Fish Passage on the Sacramento River

By Jon Myatt

September 13, 2016



A rear view of the new Yolo area water intake facility. The new diversion facility will provide more efficient and reliable water supplies for Yolo County water users. Credit: Jon Myatt/USFWS

**Endangered salmon, steelhead and sturgeon will soon be safe** from the deadly pull of water pumps on the Sacramento River in Yolo County now that a new diversion facility has finished construction.

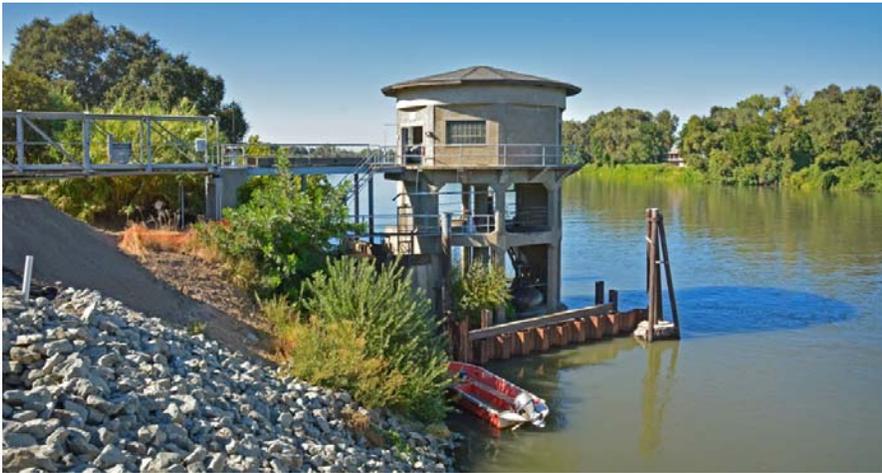
A nearly century old water intake on the river north of Sacramento is being replaced, making way for a new intake and fish screen facility designed to protect threatened and endangered fish species while also providing improved water supply reliability for eastern Yolo County.

Located on the western bank of the Sacramento River immediately upstream from the Vietnam Veterans Bridge on Interstate-5, the intake facility is a collaborative effort between Reclamation District 2035 and the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency and its partners, including the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation.

**According to Dan Meier, program manager** for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Anadromous Fish Screen Program, when the facility becomes operational intake pumps will move up to 400 cubic feet per second of water from the Sacramento River -- the equivalent to filling an Olympic-sized swimming pool in less than four minutes.

The new intake consists of ten vertical fish stainless steel screen panels with a brush cleaning system. With very small openings, about a sixteenth of an inch; the high tech fish screens allow species of threatened and endangered fish, including green sturgeon, Chinook salmon and Central Valley

steelhead, to swim and spawn in the waterway—while still delivering water to the people and animals that need it.



The original diversion pumps shown here have continued to provide water to Yolo County area users since 1920. Credit: Jon Myatt/USFWS

“The project incorporates the very latest in fish screening design and technology, resulting in the highest levels of fish protection while still reliably providing water to farms, cities and wildlife habitats,” Meier said.

**At a projected cost of almost \$57 million,** the fish screen facility is replacing the unscreened intake constructed in 1920, with a new joint intake serving Yolo County water users. Project construction was initiated in August 2014.

The state-of-the-art fish screens “meet National Marine Fisheries Service’s and California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s fish screen design criteria,” Meier said.



The new intake contains eight modern induction pumps that will move up to 400 cubic feet per second of water from the Sacramento River -- the equivalent to filling an Olympic-sized swimming pool in less than four minutes. Credit: Jon Myatt/USFWS

The project represents a successful collaborative effort to improve fish passage on Sacramento River, combining the newest technology in fish screen and diversion facility design that will eliminate fish entrainment.

Completion of the new screened diversion “is a significant milestone for the Anadromous Fish Screen Program,” said Rick Woodley, the Bureau of Reclamation’s regional resources manager. “It represents completion of the screening of one of the last major large previously unscreened diversions on the Sacramento River.”

“Not only will the new diversion help protect against entrainment of critical fish species, but will provide for a more reliable and better quality water supply for the cities of Woodland and Davis,” he said.

The diversion facility provides water directly to the recently constructed Davis Woodland Water Supply Project operated by the water agency “to replace deteriorating groundwater supplies used for drinking water with safe, more reliable surface water supplies from the Sacramento River,” Woodley said.

**The intake will draw water to irrigate 15,000 acres of farmland** in eastern Yolo County and also directly to a water treatment facility that supplies water to Davis and Woodland as part of the surface water project.

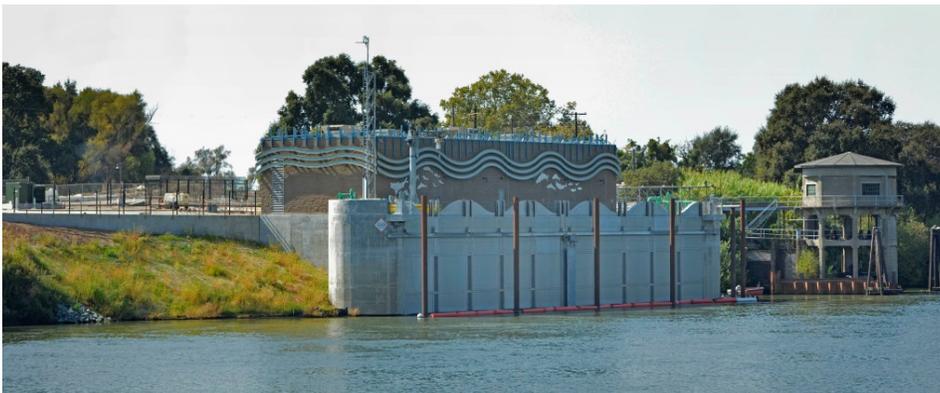
The project will supply 30 million gallons a day of treated river water to the two cities – 18 million to Woodland, 12 million gallons to Davis – to supplement both cities’ groundwater.

The structure is jointly owned and operated by Reclamation District 2035 and Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency.

**Reclamation District 2035 encompasses nearly 20,000 acres** east of the City of Woodland, including land in the Yolo Bypass, and provides water for crop irrigation and habitat preservation. Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency provides surface water supplies to the Cities of Davis and Woodland, and the University of California at Davis.

Funding for the intake and fish screen was provided by federal and state agencies and Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency, of which roughly 35 percent was provided through the Anadromous Fish Screen Program, a federal program jointly implemented by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

Project partners include the National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Water Resources and the Wildlife Conservation Board.



The new Reclamation District 2035 -Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency joint water intake facility stands next to the original water pumping station (right) constructed in 1920. Credit: Jon Myatt/USFWS

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*Jon Myatt is the digital communications manager for the Pacific Southwest Region, located in Sacramento, California.*

Last updated: September 14, 2016