

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group
Conference call: 10/21/2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Objective: Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project on salmonids and green sturgeon. DOSS will work with other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/doss.html.

DWR: Mike Ford, Farida Islam, Aaron Miller, Rhiannon Mulligan, Kevin Reece, Reza Shahcheraghi, Dan Yamanaka

USFWS: Leigh Bartoo

NMFS: Barb Byrne, Meiling Roddam

USBR: Russ Yaworsky

CDFW: Bob Fujimura

SWRCB: Matt Holland

USEPA: Erin Foresman

Agenda Items

1. Agenda review and introductions
2. Announcement: 2014 LOBO Annual Review webpage
3. Fish Monitoring
4. Current Operations
5. RPA implementation review and DOSS Advice

Agenda Item 2.

2014 LOBO Annual Review

Webpage is available at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/event-detail/11198>

Location: California Department of Food and Agriculture, 1220 N St., Main Auditorium

Agenda Item 3.

Fish Monitoring: The following table presents fish monitoring data. Unless otherwise noted, reported sizes are fork length. See also:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>.

Location	Chippis Is. Midwater Trawl*	Sacramento Trawls*	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl*	GCID	Knights Landing RST	Tisdale RST	Beach Seines*
Sample Date	10/14-10/17	10/14-10/17	10/14-10/17	10/14-10/20	10/12-10/19	10/13-10/20	10/14-10/17
Total Catch	0	0	0	13 (35mm-84mm)	0	0	1
FR Chinook							
WR Chinook				9			1 (47mm)
SR Chinook							

LFR Chinook				2			
Ad-Clipped Chinook							
Delta Smelt							
Splittail							
Longfin							
Steelhead (ad-clip)							
Steelhead (wild)				2			
Green Sturgeon							
W. Temp. (avg. °F)	67.5	66.2	68.7	62	65	62	
Flows (avg. cfs)				787**	3,618	3,706	
Turbidity (avg. NTU)	13.0	7.0	5.6	1.9	3.2	7.3	
WR/LFR Avg. CPUE							
FR/SR Avg. CPUE							

CPUE = catch per unit of effort; ACT = acoustic tag

*The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service monitoring data summaries (beach seines and the Chipps Island, Sacramento, and Mossdale trawls) were not available at the time of the DOSS call; those summaries were forwarded out to DOSS once available, and are reported here for convenience.

**Bypass flow

Beach seines: Although the weekly USFWS monitoring data summary was not available at the time of the DOSS call, Byrne (NMFS) reported that a single winter-run Chinook salmon was caught on 10/15/14 in the beach seining at South Meridian, a sampling location upstream of Knights Landing and downstream of Colusa on the Sacramento River (personal communication from J. Speegle, USFWS)

Salvage: No listed species have yet been observed during WY 2015 at the SWP or CVP fish collection facilities.

Agenda Item 4.

Current Operations (10/21/2014)

SWP		CVP	
Exports (cfs)			
Clifton Court Forebay	300	Jones Pumping Plant	0*
Reservoir Releases (cfs)			
Feather - Oroville	1,500	American - Nimbus	1,050
		Sacramento - Keswick	5,000
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	700**
Reservoir Storage (in TAF)			
San Luis (SWP)	206	San Luis (CVP)	203
Oroville	1,009	Shasta	1,112
New Melones	525	Folsom	324
Delta Operations			
DCC	Open	Sacramento River at	5,800

		Freeport (cfs)	
Outflow Index (cfs)	~ 4,100	San Joaquin River at Vernalis (cfs)	~ 420
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	6,600	E/I (%)	11%***
X2 (km)	> 81		

*CVP pumping will be cycling – on (~800 cfs) for 2 days, off for 1 day – due to water quality issues.

**10/21/14 is the first day of the fall pulse flow on the Stanislaus; the last day of the three-peak pulse schedule is 11/10/14.

***Three day average for exports, and three day average for inflow

Water quality concerns (electrical conductivity and salinity) are currently controlling export operations. The Stanislaus River pulse flow began Tuesday, 10/21/14. Based on the expected lag of two days for Stanislaus releases to reach Vernalis, increased Vernalis flows are expected on Thursday, 10/23/14. No export changes are currently planned due to water quality conditions in the Delta; the Projects will wait to see how Vernalis flows affect water quality in the Delta.

Agenda Item 5.

Delta RPA Actions in effect during October:

Action IV.1.1 (Alerts that indicate the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gate operations may be triggered soon):¹

- Recent (10/14/14-10/20/14) conditions for:
 - Wilkins Slough flow: 3,616 – 3,662 cfs (range of mean daily flow)
 - Knights Landing temperature: 64-68°F (range of temperatures reported at the rotary screw traps during trap checks)
 - Mill Creek flow : 75-89 cfs (range of mean daily flow)
 - Deer Creek flow: 64-86 cfs (range of mean daily flow)
- Neither alert has been triggered since 10/1/14.
- NMFS has approved the request from Reclamation and DWR to use a flow threshold (mean daily flow greater than 95 cfs in Mill or Deer creeks) in lieu of operating the Mill and Deer creek rotary screw traps as the first component of the first alert.

Action IV.1.2² (DCC gate operations):

- Since 10/1/14, none of the criteria requiring DCC gate closure have been met.

DOSS Advice to WOMT and NMFS: None.

Next Meeting: The next DOSS conference call will be on 10/28/14 at 9am

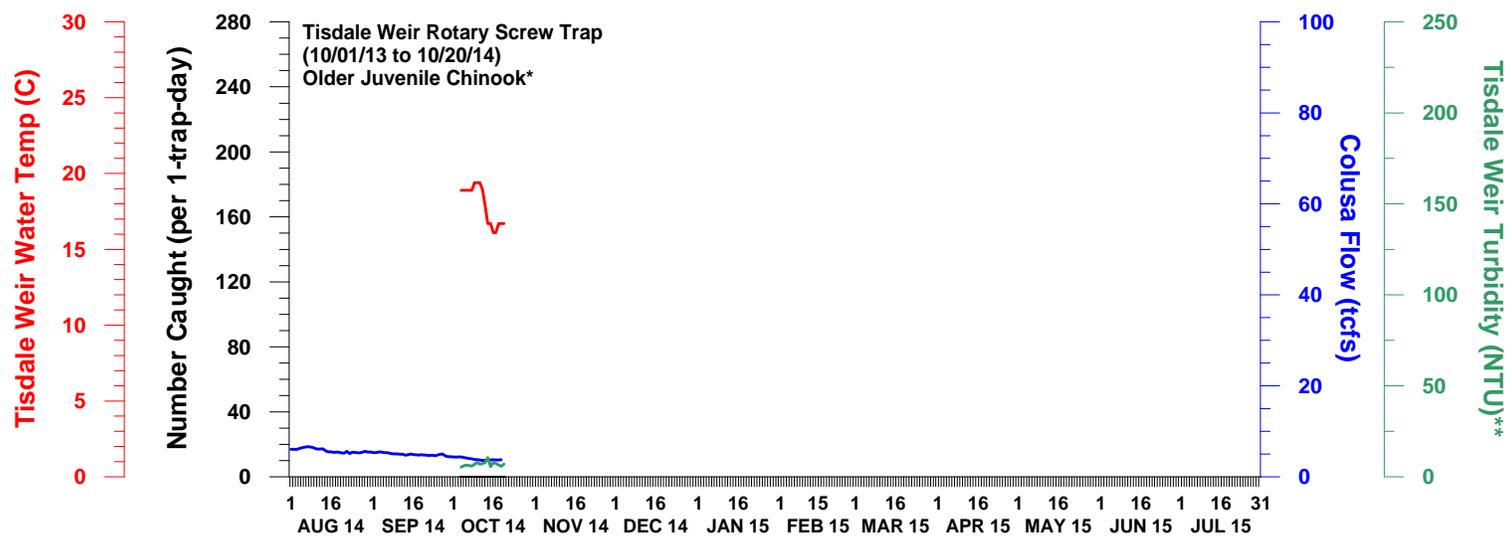
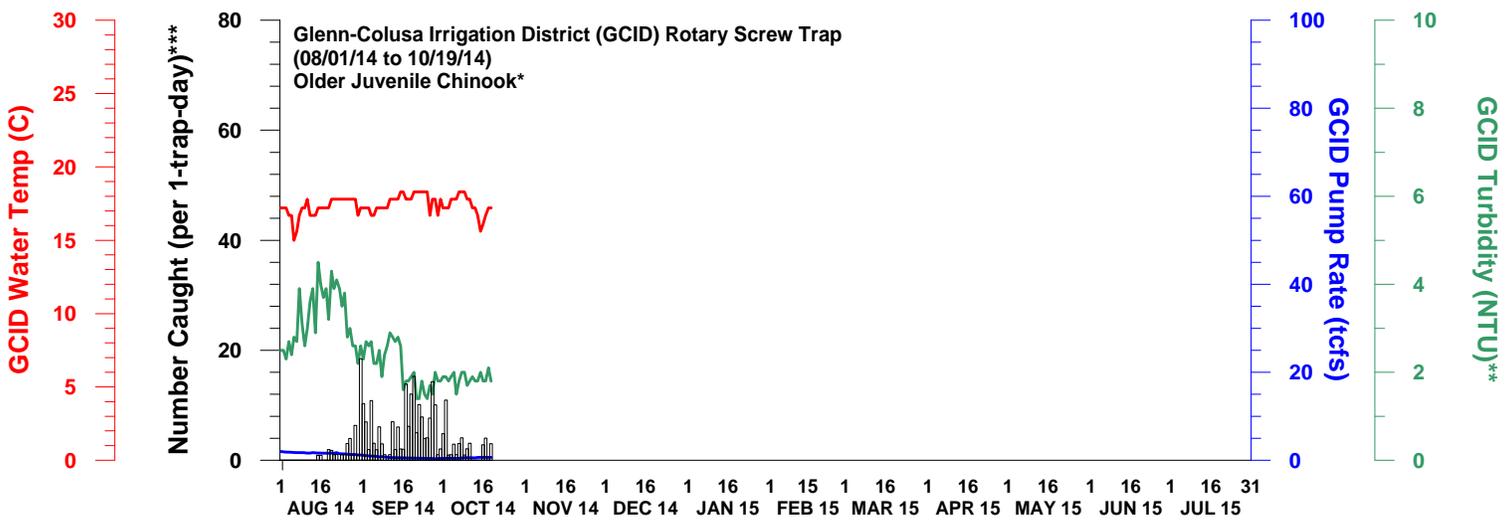
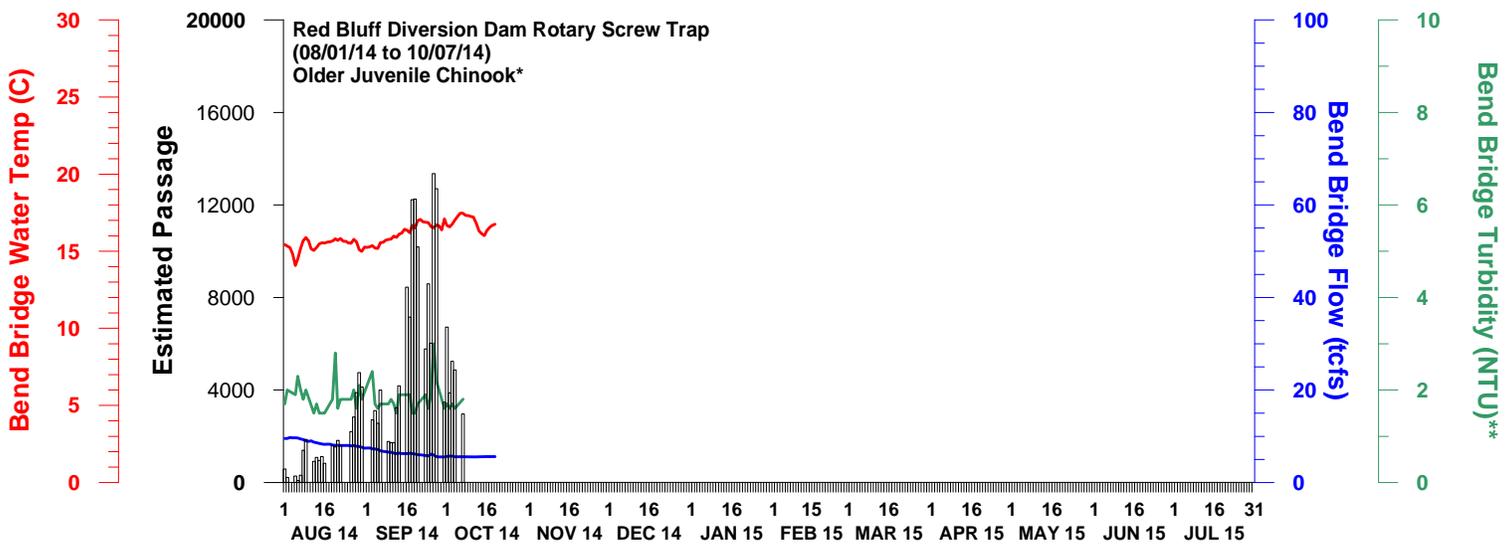
¹ For details, see pages 60-61 in Enclosure 2 of the 2011 Amendments to the 2009 RPA document at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/Water%20Operations/Operations,%20Criteria%20and%20Plan/040711_ocap_opinion_2011_amendments.pdf

² For details, see pages 62-66 in Enclosure 2 of the 2011 Amendments to the 2009 RPA document at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/Water%20Operations/Operations,%20Criteria%20and%20Plan/040711_ocap_opinion_2011_amendments.pdf

The following graphs were provided by DWR for Chinook salmon and steelhead observed at monitoring locations in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and Delta. For additional graphs, please visit the DWR website at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>.

NUMBER OF UNMARKED OLDER JUVENILE CHINOOK MEASURED IN THE SACRAMENTO RIVER



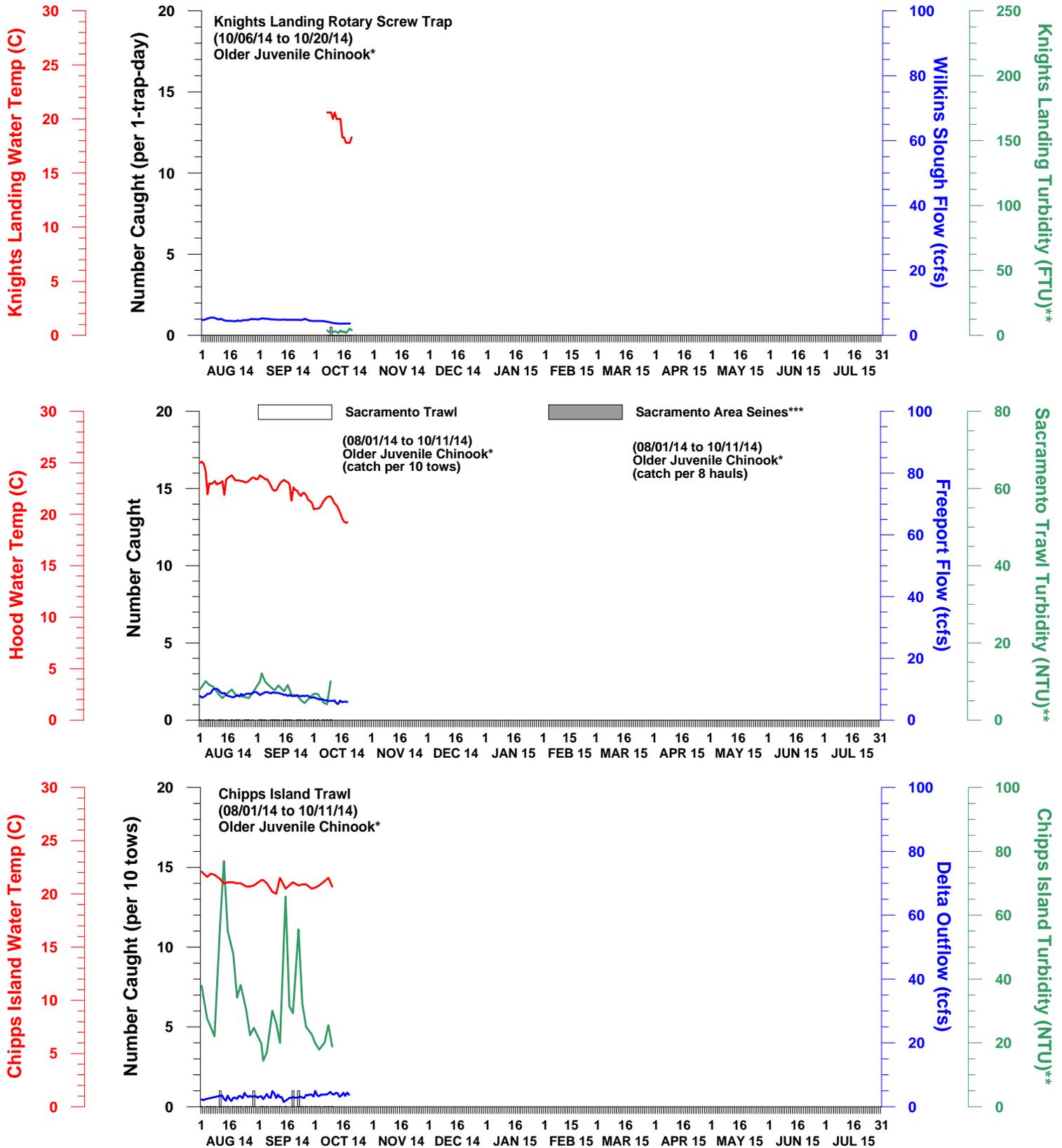
DWR-DES 20 JULY 2014

Preliminary data from DFW, FWS, GCID, and CDEC; subject to revision.

*Older juvenile Chinook defined as all Chinook greater than or equal to the minimum winter run length-at-date criteria and less than the maximum size included in the length-at-date criteria (Frank Fisher model) for which a race is assigned on a given sampling date.

**Turbidity is a discrete measurement and is not measured continuously. Therefore, data are interpolated on days when turbidity was not measured unless data are missing for more than five days.

NUMBER OF UNMARKED OLDER JUVENILE CHINOOK MEASURED IN THE LOWER SACRAMENTO RIVER AND CHIPPS ISLAND



DWR-DES 20 OCTOBER 2014

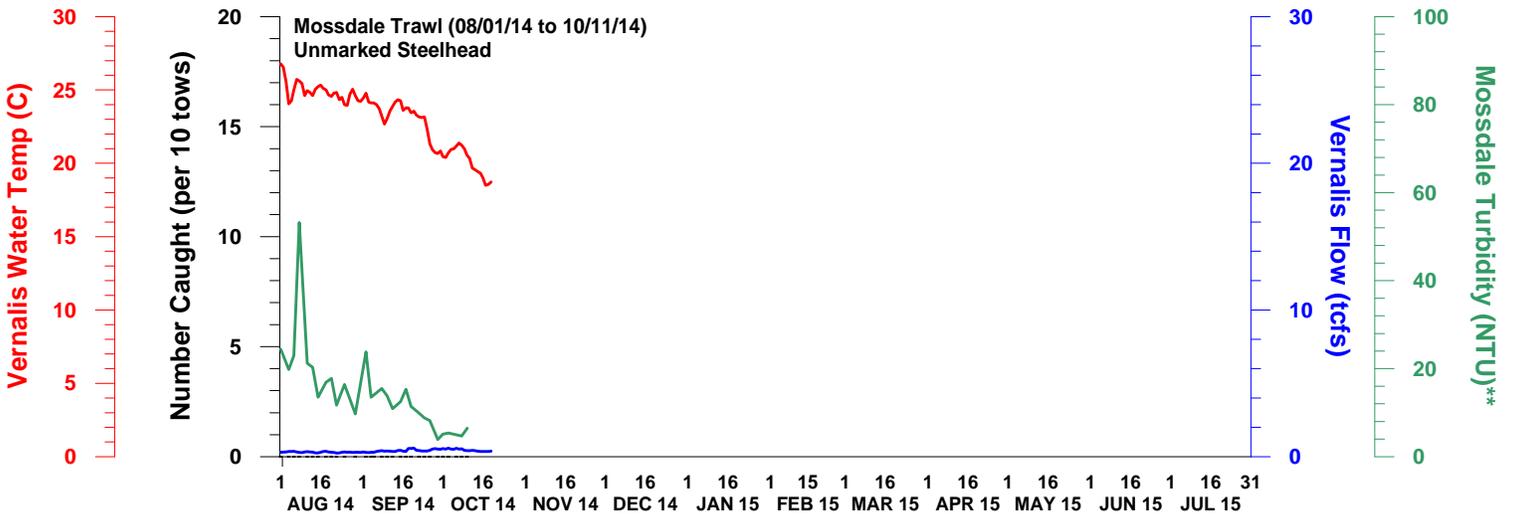
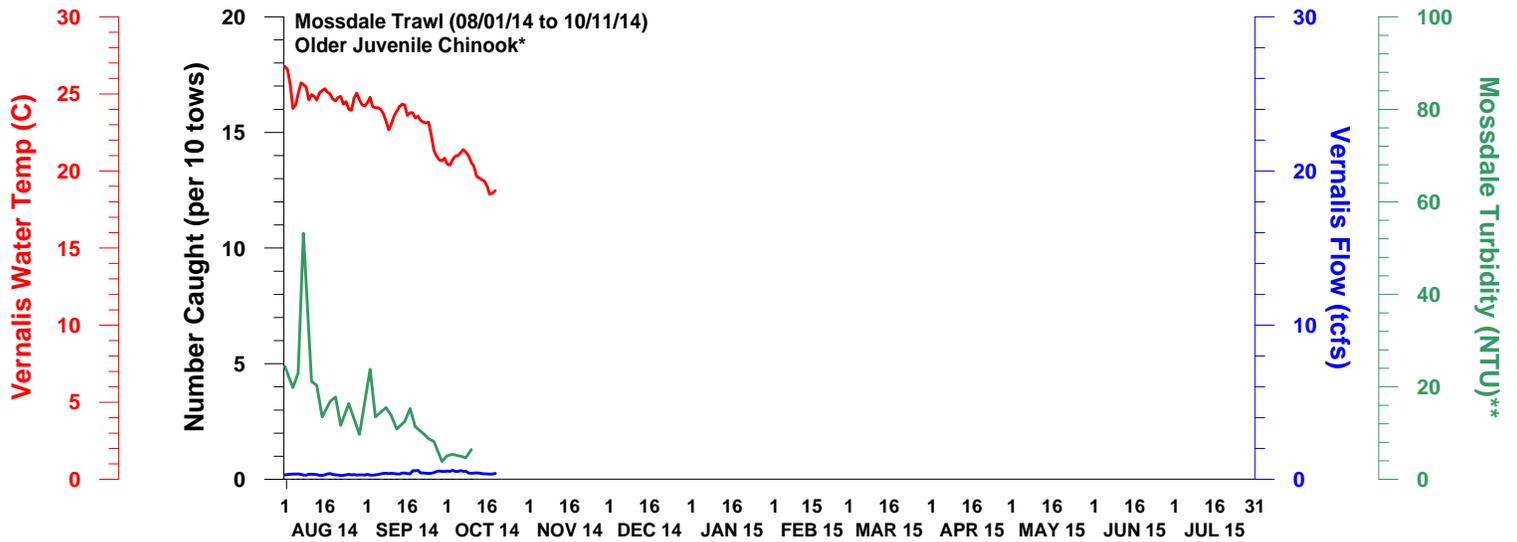
Preliminary data from DFW, FWS, and CDEC; subject to revision.

*Older juvenile Chinook defined as all Chinook greater than or equal to the minimum winter run length-at-date criteria and less than the maximum size included in the length-at-date criteria (Frank Fisher Model) for which a race is assigned on a given sampling date.

**Turbidity is a discrete measurement and is not measured continuously. Therefore, data are interpolated on days when turbidity was not measured unless data are missing for more than five days. Knights Landing turbidity measured in FTU, which should be roughly equivalent to NTU.

***Sacramento area seine route consists of the following seine sites: Verona, Elkhorn, Sand Cove, Discovery Park, American River, Miller Park, Sherwood Harbor, and Garcia Bend. Bars are stacked if Chinook caught from the trawl and seines are from the same day.

NUMBER OF UNMARKED OLDER JUVENILE CHINOOK AND STEELHEAD MEASURED IN THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER

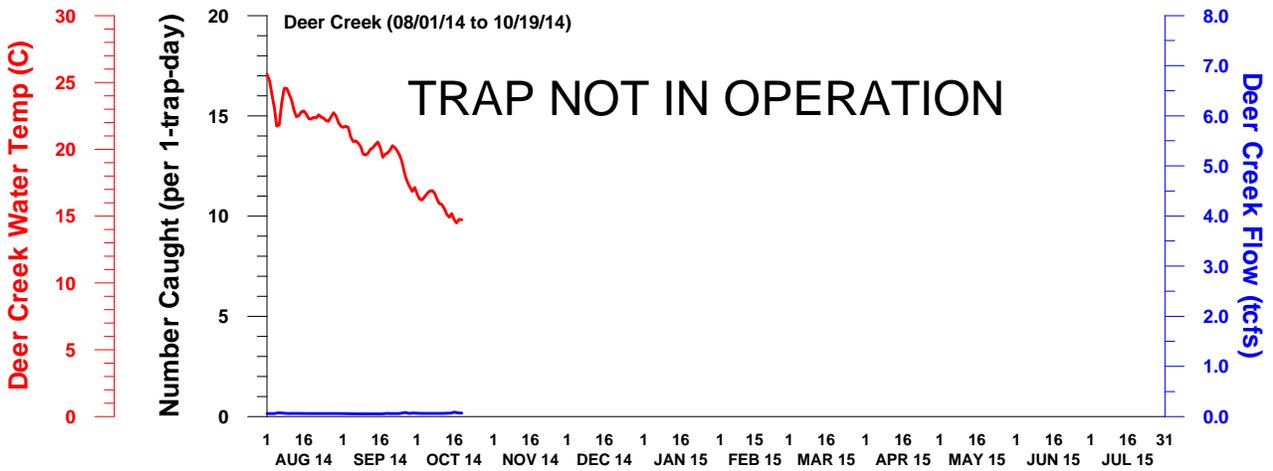
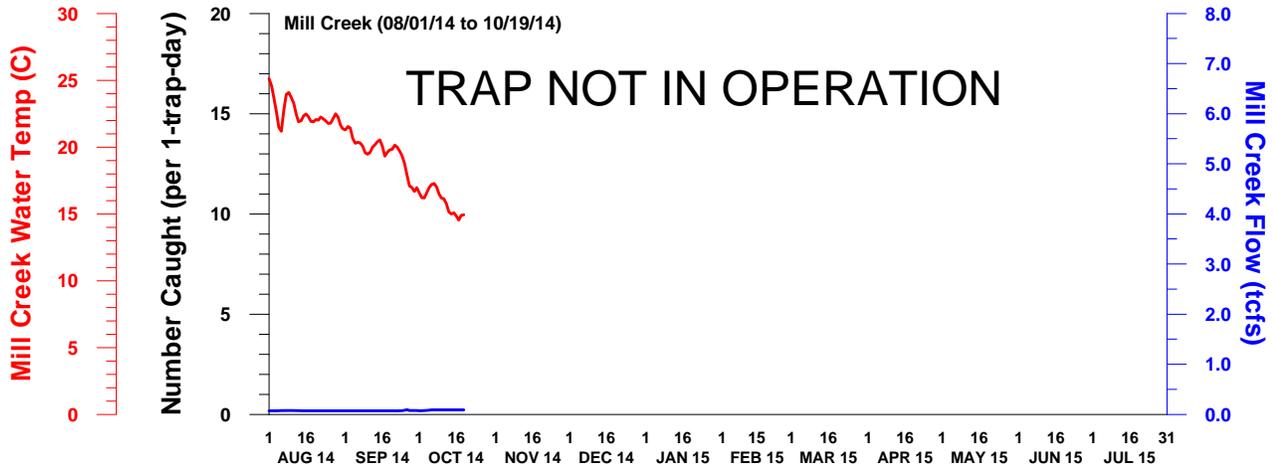


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WATER TEMPERATURE AND FLOW MEASURED AT MILL AND DEER CREEK



Data Acquisition:

All data are preliminary and subject to revision.

The estimated passage data for the Red Bluff Diversion Dam were obtained directly from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Red Bluff Fish and Wildlife Office (http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx).

The catch data for Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) were obtained directly from GCID.

The catch data for Tisdale Weir and Knights Landing were obtained directly from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)¹, North Central Region.

Sacramento River Trawl, Sacramento Area Beach Seine, and Chipps Island Trawl data were obtained directly from FWS, Stockton Fish and Wildlife Office (<http://www.fws.gov/stockton/ifmp/>).

Mossdale Trawl data were either obtained directly from FWS, Stockton Fish and Wildlife Office or from DFW (Region 4).

The hydrology data were either downloaded from the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) (<http://cdec.water.ca.gov>) or obtained directly from the California Department of Water Resources, Operations Control Office.

¹ Formerly known as the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG).