

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

10/28/09 conf. call 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Objective of the DOSS group: Create a technical advisory team that will provide recommendations to WOMT and NMFS on measures to reduce adverse effects of Delta operations of the CVP and SWP to salmonids and green sturgeon and will coordinate the work of the other technical teams.

Meeting Objective: Review fish monitoring data and provide recommendation to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) as to triggers for Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gate closures in the NMFS 2009 OCAP biological opinion.

Attendees: Andy Chu (DWR), Mitch Goode (DWR), Mike Ford (DWR), John Hannon (USBR), Paul Fujitani (USBR), Matt Nobriga (DFG), Roger Guinee (FWS), Nick Hindman (FWS), Bruce Oppenheim (NMFS), Barbara Byrne (NMFS), Greg Wilson (SWRCB)

Notes:

Knights Landing Catch Index: 2.4 on 10/26

Water temp. 62F at KL and 60-63F at Hood

Sac Trawl: 2 older juveniles observed

RBDD: still reporting large numbers of winter-run in the upper Sac. The estimated passage from last week was 300,000 + juveniles.

FWS seine sites 10/18-10/24: 8 locations, 5 Chinook caught (Verona, Elkhorn, 4 - Discovery Park, Garcia Bend, American R, 1-Sand Cove). Discussed whether seine data is part of the Sacramento Catch Index. In previous years there was some use of the seine data. Need to research DAT notes.

Mill/Deer Creek Traps: Mill Cr is operating (1 Chinook), Deer Cr is not.

CVP/SWP Salvage Facilities: See DWR's new OCO (Operations Control Office) website for current updates:

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

No salmonids or sturgeon have been reported salvaged at the fish facilities since ^{the} season started on October 1st.

Vernalis peaked at 2900 cfs. The pulse flows for fall-run Chinook salmon migration on the SJR tribs are winding down. SJR flows expected to drop.

Update on Delta Action 8 Study: A total of 480 acoustically tagged fish are planned for release in December; previous studies used CWT in fish. First release of 240 fish proposed for when the DCC gates are open for 10-14 days, 2nd release of 240 fish planned for when the DCC gates are closed. The NMFS BO allows an exception for the gates to be open during this study.

Cost of 3 day closure last week: unknown, operators can't determine cost at this time or impact on water quality without some analysis. Rio Vista D-1641 outflow standard (7-day ave. 4500 cfs) is currently 4,000 cfs and may require closing the DCC gates after Nov.1st. Closing the gates could increase the Rio Vista flows by 2000 cfs. Topic for WOMT consideration.

Other items: Agreed to move the DOSS call time to DAT time slot on Tues morning. In order to make recommendations to the WOMT. DAT will move to Weds or Thurs afternoon. Discussed process of relaying DOSS information. Since DOSS will be moved to Tues, recommendations will need to be made the same day to WOMT and notes finalized by Friday.

NMFS working on new website to post notes from DOSS and other technical teams. DWR working on OCO website for biological data and link to CALFED OPS page.

Coordination between DOSS and SWG: SWG may not convene until late November/early December, with regular meetings likely by late December. Matt Nobriga (DFG) may be able to serve as the link between the 2 groups. Leigh Bartoo (FWS) is the POC for the DSWG.

Recommendation for the week of 10/25-31:

DOSS recommends that the DCC gates remain open. The biological rationale is based on a decline in the KL Index from 3.01 to 2.46 on 10/26 and decreasing flows. Water temperatures are still high and turbidity is low, indicating that juveniles are not in the vicinity of the DCC.

Action item: Discuss Rio Vista standard at WOMT

Next Mtg: 11/03/09. 9:00am