

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

11/11/09 Tues conf. call 9:00 am

Objective of the DOSS group: 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, Mike Ford, & Sheila Greene (DWR), Thuy Washburn, Paul Fujitani & John Hannon (USBR), Matt Nobriga (DFG), Nick Hindman (FWS), Bruce Oppenheim & Jeff Stuart (NMFS), Greg Wilson (SWRCB), Bruce Herbold (EPA)

Agenda items:

- 1) DCC gate operations
- 2) addition of EPA
- 3) website status
- 4) delays in getting real-time data
- 5) discuss other actions covered in the NMFS BO by DOSS (quarterly mtg in person, annual reports)
- 6) Delta action 8 study

Notes: Reviewed data from FWS Stockton Nov.1 -7

Sac Trawl: 1 LF 11/2, 2 WR 11/6

Chippis Is Trawl: 1 Fall 11/2, 2 LF 11/4

Beach Seines: 1 WR 11/4 Sherwood Harbor

1 WR 11/5 Steamboat Slough

1 WR 11/6 Sand Cove

3 WR 11/6 Sherwood Harbor

Reviewed data from DFG Knights Landing rotary screw trap:

Date	Flow	W.Temp	CPUE
10/12/09	4506	62	0
10/14/09	5302	62	0
10/15/09	5978	62	0.49
10/17/09	5503	64	0
10/19/09	5216	64	0.49
10/21/09	5873	62	3.02
10/23/09	5239	62	1.52
10/26/09	4933	63	2.46
10/28/09	4768	60	2.25
10/30/09	4554	57	0.25
11/02/09	4442	59	0.16
11/05/09	4082	61	0.33
11/07/09	3869	61	0
11/09/09		59	0

1) The DCC gates were closed on Friday 11/6 for Rio Vista flow standard. The gates were reopened on Sat. 11/7. The Sacramento Seine data (3 winter-run at Sherwood and 1 at Sand Cove) would have triggered a closure for fishery protection on 11/6, but since the gates were already closed, no action was necessary.

Operators were contemplating closing the gates again on Thurs or Fri for a couple of days to increase flows at Rio Vista if it stays dry. Freeport is 8,000 cfs, targeting 3,500 cfs (7 day average) at Rio Vista. In order to meet the monthly average of 4,500 cfs, the daily Rio Vista flow needs to be 5,500 cfs to bring the average up. One storm could do that.

Mill and Deer Creek traps are operating but flows are low, no fish being caught. John Hannon reported 6 green sturgeons were tagged near GCID as part of a joint USBR/DWR study.

Nick Hindman reported American R. power bypass at Folsom starts today. Fall-run Chinook started spawning 10/20 but slowed to a stop. This action is intended to lower the water temperature enough to allow spawning to start again.

2) Bruce Herbold from EPA has joined the DOSS group

3) DWR's website is up and running. For fish data at other monitoring sites see: <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>. No salmonids or sturgeon have been reported salvaged at the fish salvage facilities since October 1st. NMFS website for DOSS and other technical teams is still under construction.

4) Delays in getting real-time data last week were addressed by informing FWS and DFG staff of the criteria for DCC gate fishery closures. Data is now being reported on Mondays for DOSS, and to Sheila Greene (DWR) if the triggers are met.

5) DOSS discussed how to assess other actions besides the DCC gates that are required in the NMFS BiOp, such as; OMR flows, San Joaquin R export to inflow ratio, and fish facility improvements. Jeff Stuart suggested using triggers and fish salvage estimates, however, it's difficult to determine what benefits actions have based on salvage data. Acoustic tags in the Delta could be useful. COE is tagging green sturgeon in San Pablo Bay. Studies at RBDD have been authorized to tag juvenile green sturgeon grown out at UCD, but this will take a year. Paul Fujitani suggested using some kind of "transitional language" to go from one target to another (e.g., OMR flow objectives). Tracy Hinojosa (DWR) is working on finalizing this language for FWS, which is currently reviewing the latest revision. After that it will be put out to WOMT and DOSS to review. The issue of how to assess these other actions was unresolved, as well as, who will write the annual and 5 year reports. However, there was some consensus for an in-person meeting of DOSS in the future.

6) Delta Action 8 Study: If it stays dry the DCC gates may need to be closed during the first 2 weeks of December to meet the D-1641 Rio Vista Flow Standard (3500 cfs 7 day

average). This standard was created to protect juvenile salmon outmigration. Last years study that looked at ½ day closures and night-time operations remains unfinished due to funding shortfalls.

Other Items: DOSS is changing DAT call to Weds at 1:00 pm. First DAT call will be Wed., Nov. 18. The agency biologists need to participate in these calls to answer stakeholder questions. CALFED OPS wants to know WOMT decision on DAT schedule.

Recommendation for the week of 11/8 – 11/14:

DOSS had no recommendation this week in light of the possible DCC closure in order to meet the Rio Vista Standard. DOSS acknowledged this action would not harm the protection of juvenile salmonids and likely provides increased protection for those juvenile salmonids that remain in the area to rear as indicated by the Sacramento seine data.

Next Mtg: 11/17/09 at 9:00 am