

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

12/03/09 special Thurs conf. at 1:00 pm

Meeting Objective: Update on weather and Rio Vista Flow standard pertaining to the Delta Action 8 study plan.

Attendees: Mike Ford (DWR), Paul Fujitani (USBR), Pat Brandes (USFWS) Nick Hindman (FWS), Bruce Oppenheim & Jeff Stuart (NMFS)

Notes:

Weather briefing Thurs morning indicates rain likely on Sunday and Monday, wet all next week with significant precipitation starting on Wednesday. Mike Ford updated the group with information on the Rio Vista 7-day average flow standard (3500 cfs) which is currently controlling the operation of the DCC gates. The gates were opened on Tuesday 12/1/09 for the Delta Action 8 experiment. Paul Fugitani indicated that the forecasted rain will not come in time to meet the 7 day average. He expects that in the next couple of days the Sacramento River accretions and flows will drop off. DCC gates are scheduled to close on Sunday 12/6 at 10:00 am and open on Tuesday 12/8, in order to meet the 7-day average Rio Vista flow. Also, operators indicated that the gates would have to be closed despite the study for water quality (salinity) since it is worsening.

Delta Action 8: Tagged fish were released 12/1-12/3 above Sacramento and are expected to pass the DCC next week. Pat Brandes asked if the gate operation could be re-assessed on Monday (i.e. to shorten closed period). Paul suggested a possible 1 day closure if conditions allow. Also, opening the gates can be accomplished quicker than closing because there is less notification time required.

Recommendation:

DOSS had no recommendation since gate closures to meet the SWRCB D-1641 flow standard are non-discretionary. DOSS does not anticipate any impacts to ESA listed salmonids or green sturgeon from the closure to meet the Rio Vista Flow Standard.