

**Advice from the Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) subgroup regarding possible modification of sampling at the Chipps Island trawl station**

**October 20, 2011**

**Background:**

Mid-water trawl sampling at the Chipps Island fish monitoring station typically occurs three to seven times per week, throughout the year. Because of concerns about exceeding the delta smelt take limit associated with the Chipps Island fish monitoring, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) is considering modifications to the sampling protocol at Chipps Island from October through December 2011, the end of the current “take period.” FWS Stockton staff participating in the 10/18/2011, DOSS call requested feedback from the DOSS group about how sampling modifications would affect data needs for salmonids.

A conference call was scheduled for 10/20/2011 to allow a subgroup of DOSS to discuss this issue. The subgroup considered the pros and cons of a number of sampling modifications that might reduce the take of delta smelt such as: reducing the number of sampling days per week, reducing the number of tows per sampling day, reducing the time of each tow, sampling in a new location, sampling on flood tides only, implementing a daily take limit, and various combinations of the above.

**Subgroup Advice (from 10/20/2011 call)**

A review of historical data (2001-2010) from Chipps Island showed that Chinook salmon (of any race) were seldom observed in the Chipps trawls before December, and steelhead were seldom observed before January (data provided in Attachment 1).

For the months remaining in calendar year 2011, the group identified December as the month during which the sampling at Chipps Island is most critical for monitoring juvenile Chinook salmon. Sampling during October and November (for Chinook salmon and steelhead) or December (for steelhead) was identified as being less critical, since few Chinook salmon or steelhead are expected to be passing Chipps Island during those months. More specifically, the group’s advice is that sampling through the end of 2011 not fall below the minimum sampling effort described below:

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>MINIMUM SAMPLING EFFORT</b>
October	1 sampling day per week, with the number of tows to be limited by a daily delta smelt take “limit <sup>1</sup> ” to be determined by FWS.
November	1 sampling day per week, with the number of tows to be limited by a daily delta smelt take “limit” to be determined by FWS.
December	1 sampling day per week (preferably 2 or 3 days per week), with the number of tows on a given sampling day to be limited by a daily delta smelt take “limit” to be determined by FWS.

<sup>1</sup> In conjunction with the reduction in the frequency of sampling, this daily take “limit” would provide an additional control on delta smelt take and help ensure continued sampling through the end of 2011.

# ATTACHMENT 1

Chinook salmon and steelhead data from Chipps Island  
reviewed by the DOSS subgroup on 10/20/2011

*(charts were excerpted from the salmonid incidental take and  
monitoring program annual data reports produced by DWR for  
the years 2001-2010)*

**OBSERVED CHINOOK CATCH AT CHIPPS ISLAND  
08/01/2009 THROUGH 07/31/2010**

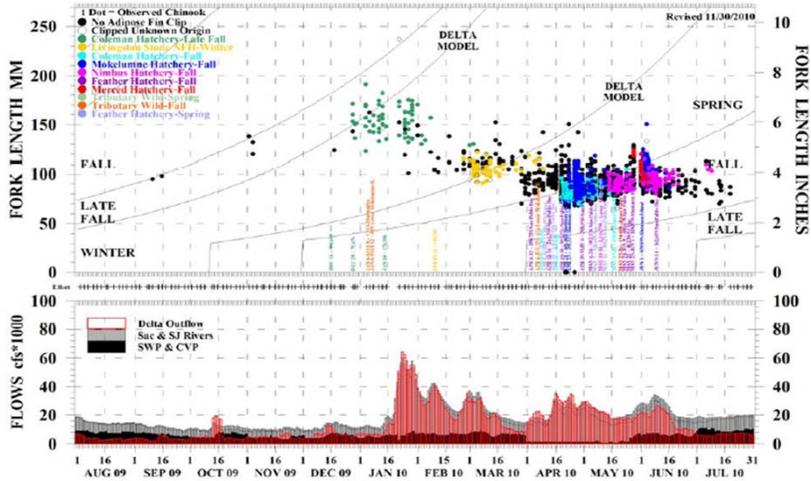


Figure 13. Juvenile Chinook caught in the Chipps Island trawl, August 2009 through July 2010.

**OBSERVED CHINOOK CAUGHT IN THE  
CHIPPS ISLAND TRAWL 8/1/2007 THROUGH 7/31/2008**

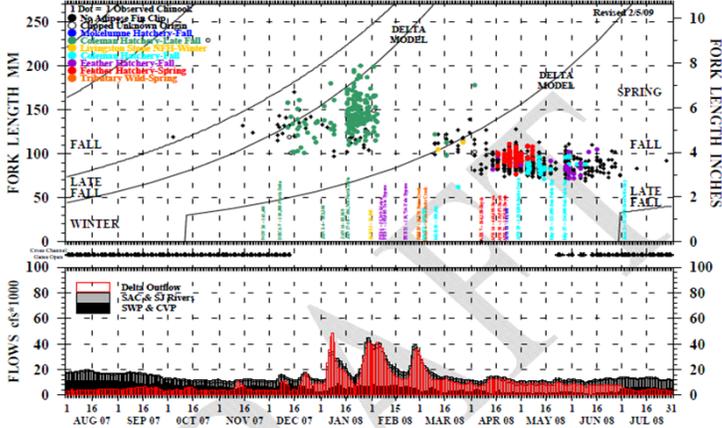


Figure 13. Juvenile Chinook caught in the Chipps Island trawl, August 2007 through July 2008.

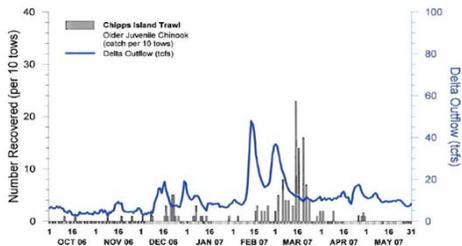


Figure 13. Number of older juvenile Chinook recovered in the Chipps Island Trawl, October 2006-May 2007

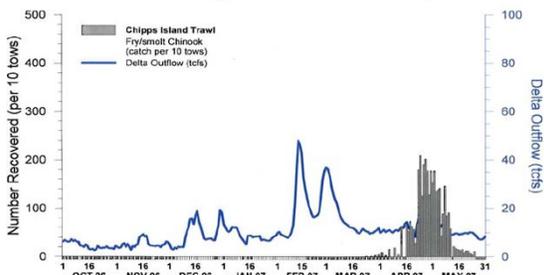


Figure 15. Number of fry/smolt Chinook recovered in the

Figure 10. Number of fry/smol Chinook recovered in the Chipps Island Trawl, October 2006-May 2007

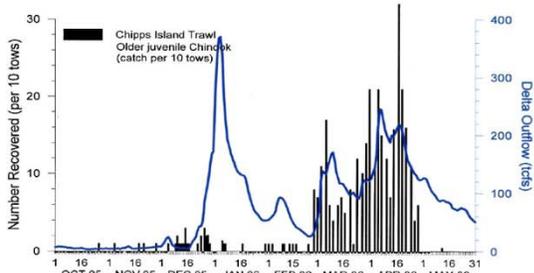


Figure 13. Number of older juvenile Chinook recovered in the Chipps Island Trawl, October 2005-May 2006

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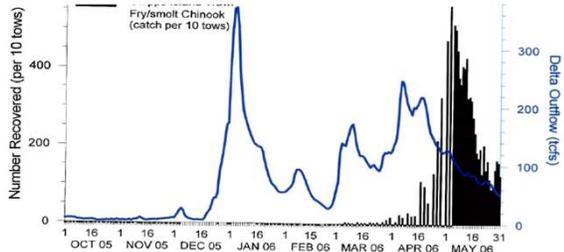


Figure 15. Number of fry/smol Chinook recovered in the Chipps Island Trawl, October 2005-May 2006

### CHINOOK MEASURED IN THE CHIPPS ISLAND MIDWATER TRAWL 8/1/04 THROUGH 7/31/05

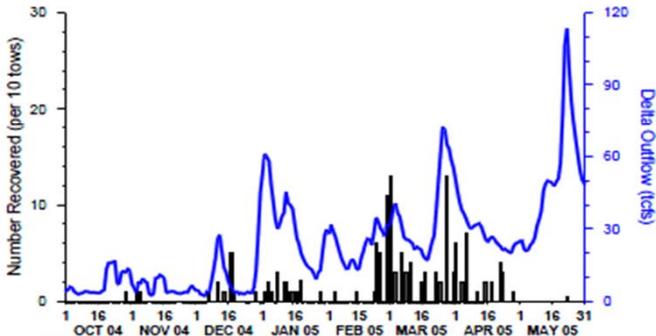
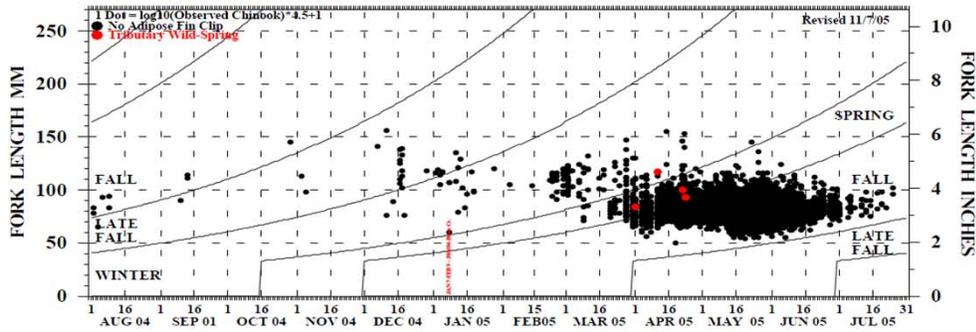


Figure 11. Number of older juvenile Chinook recovered in the Chipps Island Mid-water trawl, October 2004 through May 2005.

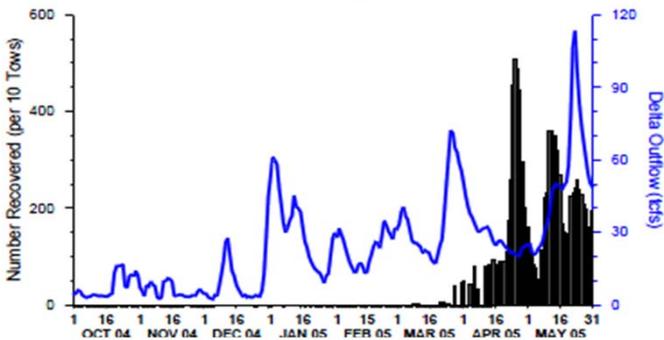


Figure 12. Number of fry/smolt Chinook recovered in the Chipps Island Mid-water trawl, October 2005 through May 2006.

Figure 9. Number of older juvenile Chinook recovered in the Chipps Island mid-water trawl, October 2003 - May 2004

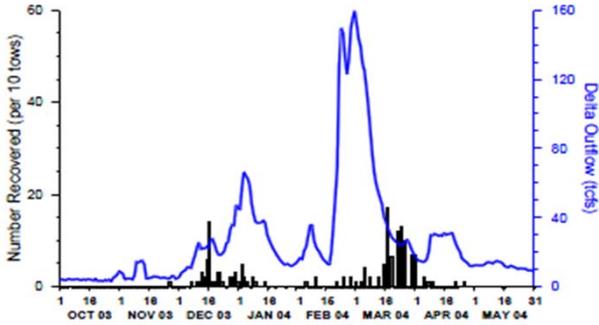


Figure 10. Number of fry/smolt Chinook recovered in the Chipps Island mid-water trawl, October 2003 - May 2004

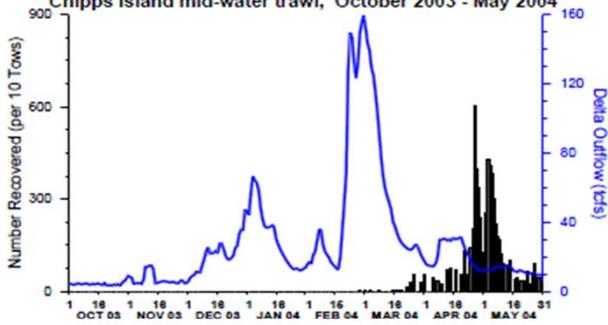


Figure 7. Number of older juvenile Chinook recovered in the Chipps Island mid-water trawl, October 2002 - May 2003

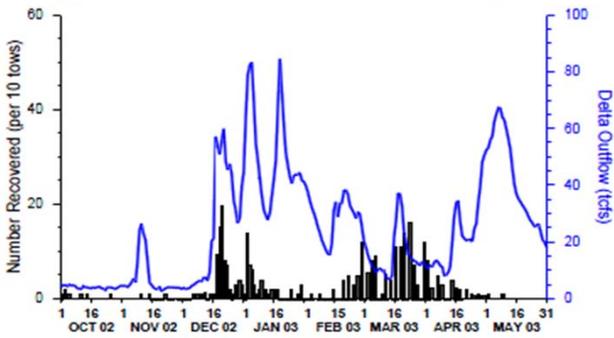
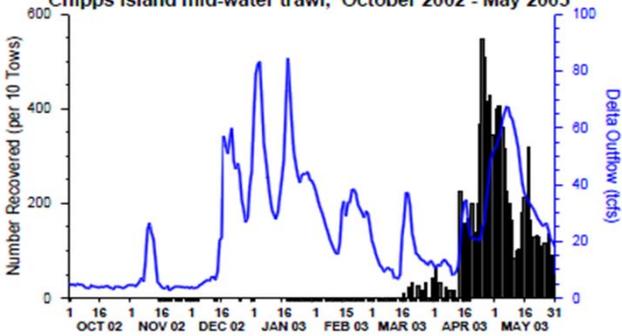
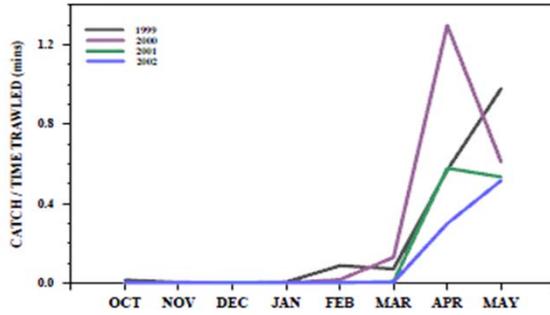


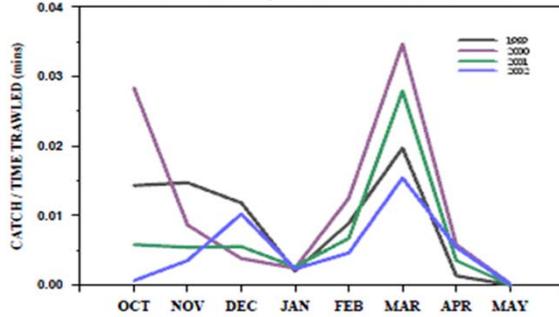
Figure 8. Number of fry/smolt Chinook recovered in the Chipps Island mid-water trawl, October 2002 - May 2003



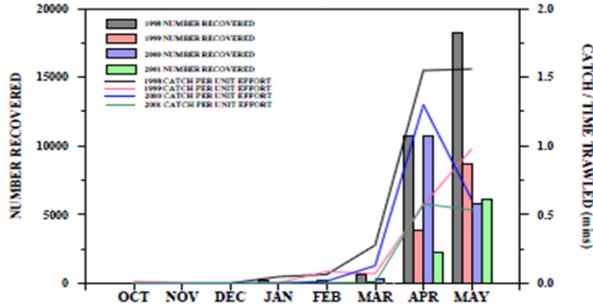
**Figure 7. FRY/SMOLTS RECOVERED PER TIME TRAWLED AT CHIPPS ISLAND, OCTOBER THROUGH MAY**



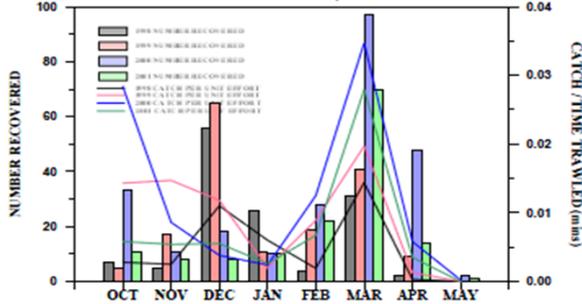
**Figure 8. OLDER JUVENILES RECOVERED PER TIME TRAWLED AT CHIPPS ISLAND, OCTOBER THROUGH MAY**



**Figure 7. NUMBER OF FRY/SMOLTS RECOVERED AND CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT AT CHIPPS ISLAND, OCTOBER THROUGH MAY**



**Figure 8. NUMBER OF OLDER JUVENILES RECOVERED AND CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT AT CHIPPS ISLAND, OCTOBER THROUGH MAY**



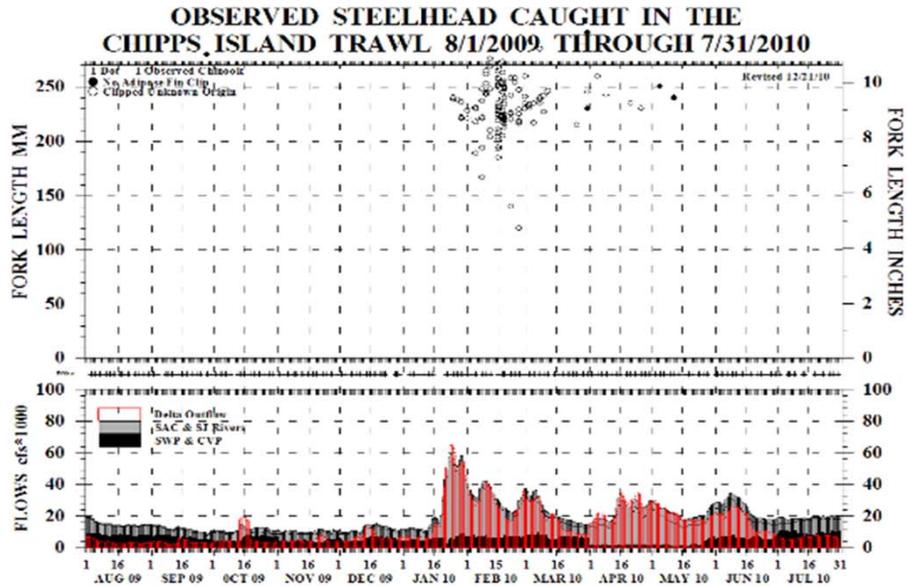


Figure 23. Juvenile steelhead caught in the Chipps Island trawl, August 2009 through July 2010.

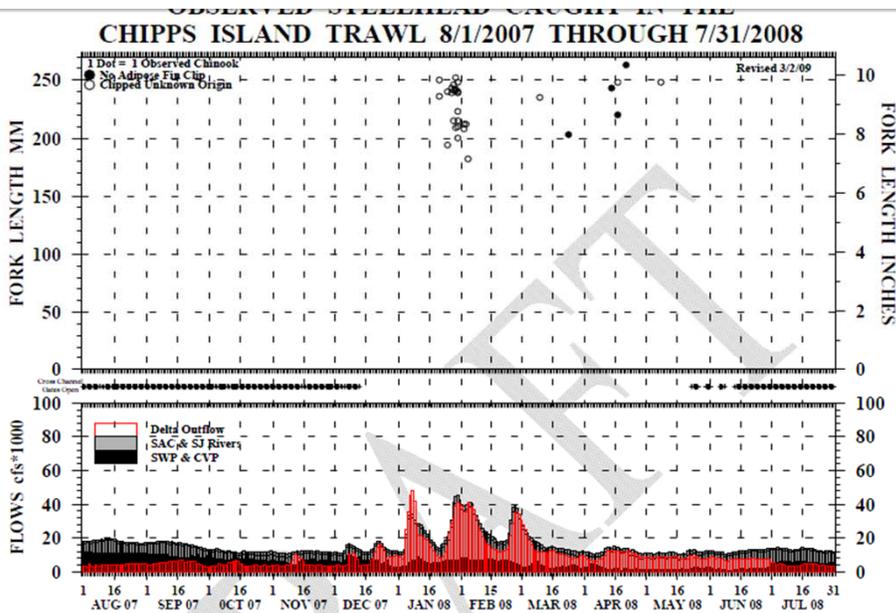


Figure 21. Juvenile steelhead caught in the Chipps Island trawl, August 2007 through July 2008.