

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

01/05/10 Tues conf. call 9:00 am

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 to salmonids and green sturgeon. DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams.

Attendees: Mike Ford, Sheila Greene and Andy Chu (DWR), Roger Guinee & Nick Hindman (FWS), Jeff Stuart, Barbara Byrne, Garwin Yip, & Bruce Oppenheim (NMFS), Greg Wilson (SWRCB), John Hannon and Thuy Washburn (USBR).

Agenda items: fish monitoring, water quality, and new NMFS website

Fish Monitoring: Knights Landing (KL) weekly summary:

Date	Flow cfs	Water T (F)	Secchi (ft)	Turbidity NTU	Salmon Species	Catch	Min (FL)	Max (FL)	CPUE Index	Ad- clips
12/20/09	6330	52	1.7	15.6		0	0	0	0	0
12/21/09	5948	53	1.6	14.5		0	0	0	0	1
12/22/09	5799	51	1.5	17.5	1 FR, 3 LFR	4	27	141	1.5	8
12/23/09	6356	50	1.7	15.2	2 FR, 2 LFR 2 FR, 1 SR,	4	35	125	1	27
12/24/09	6570	49	1.2	12.0	2 WR	5	37	74	1.04	13
12/26/09	5283	48	1.7	11.6	1 FR, 1 LFR	2	38	149	0.24	13
12/28/09	4839	47	2.5	9.6		0	0	0	0	12
12/29/09	4825	47	2.9	6.3	1 WR	1	80	80	0.5	3
12/30/09	4856	47	2.4	8.9		0	0	0	0	2
12/31/09	4911	48	2.6	10.0		0	0	0	0	1
01/02/10	5428	49	2.5	10.6		0	0	0	0	0
01/04/10		51	2.3	14.5		0	0	0	0	3

FR = Fall run, LFR = Late fall run, WR = winter-run, SR = spring-run

Knights Landing: River flows have decreased since the rain last Friday (New Year's Day). The number of Chinook caught at KL has diminished significantly since the last hatchery (ad-clipped) fish went past.

FWS data (for 12/27 – 1/02):

Beach Seines: 2 fall-run (38 & 35 mm), and 1 spring-run (40 mm) at Verona

Sacramento & Mossdale trawl: No species of interest

Chippis Island: 1 late-fall, 6 tagged Chinook, 22 longfin smelt, & 1 Delta smelt (67 mm)

Mill and Deer Creeks: (Sheila Greene): There was a small increase in flows (up to 310 cfs) on Mill Creek on 12/22/2009, and a catch increase of 5 yearling spring run on 12/23/2009. There were 2 fry sized Chinook reported on Mill over the last two weeks. No spring run were observed on Deer Creek, but one fry sized Chinook was seen. 1 steelhead/trout (59 mm) was observed on Mill Creek.

CVP and SWP Fish Salvage Facilities (12/28 to – 1/03): No species of interest were salvaged at either facility for the period of reporting. For graphs of the cumulative salvage and loss rates to date see:

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

Fish monitoring data did not trigger or warrant any operational changes. The KL catch index has been zero since 12/30, trawls have not caught any listed salmonids, and seines only caught one spring-run last week. No species of concern were reported at the salvage facilities. DOSS concluded that due to the dry hydrology and lack of flows very few wild salmonids were moving into or out of the Delta. Coleman National Hatchery is planning a release of 594,000 juvenile steelhead (210 mm av. FL) at Bend Bridge on the Sacramento River from 1/6 – 1/15. These fish should start showing up at KL next week.

Delta Smelt Working Group: There was no call this Monday, very little to report. The Fall Midwater Trawl results have not been published, so the delta smelt incidental take limit for this year is still unknown.

Green Sturgeon update: John Hannon reported that mobile tracking of adults in the upper Sacramento River has been suspended, so there was no data on sturgeon movement near the GCID diversion.

1) Other Compliance Standards:

DWR projecting Old and Middle River flows (OMR) for the 14 day average will drop to – 4,000 cfs, currently less negative than – 5,000 cfs. USBR projected the 5 day average OMR at – 2,600 cfs and – 4,000 cfs for the 14 day average. Currently, delta operations are being controlled by the salinity intrusion from the last spring neap tide. Water quality, in terms of 250 mg/l Chloride standard at Rock Slough is the control point.

2) Turbidity: Not an issue, currently under 12 NTU 3 day average at all locations

Prisoners Point = 6.1 NTU

Holland Cut = 3.4 NTU

Victoria Canal = 2.2 NTU

3) Water operations: Current reservoir releases are at, or near minimum release levels: Keswick 3250 cfs, Oroville 1350 cfs, and Nimbus 1550 cfs. Shasta storage increased significantly due to the last storm event to 1,834 thousand acre feet (taf), however Oroville storage decreased to 1,026 taf, and Folsom storage decreased to 259 af. Flows are 1,226 cfs at Vernalis (San Joaquin River) and 11,529 cfs at Freeport (Sacramento River).

Weather forecasting is split between a wet or dry a period, no significant storms are predicted for the first 10 days next week. The first snow surveys completed by DWR came in below average (*i.e.*, 85 % of normal).

4) Other items: NMFS has added a website to their Southwest Region home page which will include DOSS notes and advice. See below: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/actions.htm>

NMFS will try and provide a link from this site to the DWR monitoring site for fish data.

Coded wire tag (CWT) data reporting: Sheila Greene reported that DWR would provide updates on tag recoveries at the fish salvage facilities for purposes of monitoring incidental take of spring-run Chinook salmon.

No advice to WOMT or NMFS for the week of 12/28 to 1/2.

Next Mtg: 01/12/10 at 9:00 am