

## Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

01/19/10 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, Reza Shahcheraghi, Carol Stroble & Sheila Greene (DWR), Roger Guinee & Nick Hindman (FWS), Jeff Stuart, Barbara Byrne & Bruce Oppenheim (NMFS), Thuy Washburn (USBR), Matt Nobriga (DFG), Tom Kimball (SWRCB)

**Agenda:** fish monitoring, & water quality conditions

**Fish Monitoring:** Knights Landing (KL) weekly summary:

Date	Flow cfs	Water T (F)	Secchi (ft)	Turbidity NTU	Race	Catch	Min FL	Max FL	Ad- Clips	CPUE
01/11/10	4752	50	3.0	6.7	1 LFR	1	121	121	0	0.25
01/12/10	4923	51	2.6	5.6	0	0	0	0	0	0
01/13/10	5548	52	3.2	7.6	0	0	0	0	0	0
01/14/10	10728	52	2.1	11.9	1 FR	1	37	37	0	0
01/16/10	10103	52	0.9	41.9	152 FR	156	31	86	0	0.71
01/17/10		53	0.8	37.2	3 SR, 224 FR	227	31	48	0	0

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

*Knights Landing (KL):* Sacramento River flows doubled over the weekend sending a large pulse of fall-run Chinook downstream. A few older juveniles were observed on Saturday and Sunday. The number of ad-clipped (hatchery) fish has dropped off to zero. The Knights Landing Index, or catch per unit of effort (CPUE), is still less than 1.0. However, juvenile salmonids are expected to increase past KL this week with the significant increase in turbidity and flows from this week's storm.

### **FWS data (for 1/10 – 1/16):**

*Beach Seines:* 3 fall-run Chinook, 2 spring-run Chinook, 7 winter-run Chinook, & 1 Splittail. Note: all salmon were caught on Lower Sac and Sac Seine runs above the American River.

*Sacramento & Mossdale Kodiak trawl:* No species of concern

*Chippis Island Midwater Trawl:* 13 Tagged Chinook salmon, 3 Splittail, 2 Longfin smelt, & 1 Delta smelt (68 mm)

*Mill and Deer Creeks:* No report

*After the DOSS call (Colleen Harvey reported):* Mill Creek; 3 spring-run yearlings (93-120 mm fl), 40 Chinook fry (32-38 mm fl), and 3 steelhead (165 -215 mm fl). The rotary screw trap cone

was raised due to high flows and the trap has become wedged against a cement irrigation wall. Flows are 4,290 cfs and increasing.

Deer Creek; 126 Chinook fry (30-40 mm fl), 2 steelhead (174 & 196 mm) and no spring-run yearlings. The rotary screw trap cone was raised because of high flows. One of the cables securing the trap had broken, but the trap was still in place. Flows are 5,450 cfs and rising.

*CVP and SWP Fish Salvage Facilities (1/11-1/18):* No report

After the DOSS call: 1 late fall Chinook salmon was caught at the CVP for a loss of 4 fish. No delta smelt, longfin smelt, steelhead, or green sturgeon were salvaged. 6 splittail were caught at the SWP.

For fish data at other monitoring sites 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 for winter-run has been less than 1.0 CPUE (3.0 is the criteria used to indicate salmon moving into the delta) since 1/11. Sacramento and Mossdale trawls have not caught any listed salmonids. The fish salvage facilities reported only one ad-clipped Chinook and no winter-run, spring-run, or steelhead this last week.

*Delta Smelt Working Group (Jeff Stuart):* There was a call earlier today. No smelt were salvaged since last week. No longfin smelt either. 25 delta smelt were caught in trawls. Turbidity was not a concern for now. No advice given to WOMT this week.

*Green Sturgeon update:* no report

### **1) Other Compliance Standards:**

The Old and Middle River (OMR) flow rate is currently – 4,372 cfs, for the 14-day running average, and -4422 cfs for the 5-day running average. OMR and water quality are controlling delta export pumping rates. High winds may impact salinity this week and degrade water quality. SWP exporting 5,000 cfs and CVP is at 1,000 cfs. Operators expect to be in excess conditions by Friday due to the storms. COA balancing should end this week and exports and SWP may decrease as CVP increases. Combined export rate should stay the same as projects adjust. OMR limit of – 5,000 cfs in the NMFS BO will likely constrain pumping starting this week.

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

Prisoners Point = 5.1 NTU

Holland Cut = 3.2 NTU

Victoria Canal = 2.8 NTU

### **3) Water operations:** Current reservoir releases are at, or near minimum release levels:

Keswick 3250 cfs, Oroville 1350 cfs, and Nimbus 1550 cfs. Flows are 1,464 cfs at Vernalis (San Joaquin River) and 15,586 cfs at Freeport (Sacramento River). Sacramento flows are predicted

to increase to 40,000 cfs at Verona by Friday. Weather forecast is for storms all week with significant precipitation. Turbidity and flows have increased into the Delta.

**4) Other items:** Draft proposal for workshop on: Delta Fish Management Toolbox (see agenda attached last week). Bruce O asked for discussion on this and there was no response (deferred to next mtg, with updated proposal for Feb. 17). Need presenters for DOSS and SWG to discuss various actions available for management tools.

**No advice to WOMT or NMFS for the week of 1/18 to 1/22.**

DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/actions.htm>

Next Mtg: 01/26/10 at 9:00 am. Barbara Byrne (NMFS) will lead.