

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

02/02/10 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. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/actions.htm>

Attendees: Mike Ford, Reza Shahcheraghi, Carol Stroble & Andy Chu (DWR), Nick Hindman & Leah Bartoo (FWS), Jeff Stuart, Barbara Byrne, Garwin Yip & Bruce Oppenheim (NMFS), John Hannon & Thuy Washburn (USBR), Greg Wilson (SWRCB), Bruce Herbold (EPA), Matt Nobriga (DFG)

Agenda: fish monitoring, water quality, and Delta Toolbox Workshop

Fish Monitoring: Knights Landing (KL) weekly summary:

Date	Flow cfs	Water T (F)	Secchi (ft)	Turbidity NTU	Catch	NC Fall	NC Spring	NC Winter	NC Late fall	Ad- clip CS	Ad- clip SH	NC SH	Winter CPUE
01/26/10	25938	49	0.7	53.0	847	823	16	8	0	4	7	0	4.19
01/27/10	27175	49	0.4	299.0	536	527	4	5	0	2	9	1	2.11
01/28/10	26046	48	0.4	199.0	275	272	1	2	0	2	1	0	1.3
01/29/10	23850	49	0.5	106.8	558	543	10	5	0	1	4	0	2.46
01/30/10	20908	50	0.7	62.2	443	413	21	9	0	1	5	0	4.29
01/31/10		51	0.7	58.8	231	124	3	4	0	0	8	1	1.93
totals						2702	55	33	0	10	34	2	

NC= Non clipped, Fall=fall-run Chinook, spring=spring-run Chinook, winter= winter-run Chinook, CS=Chinook salmon, SH=steelhead

Knights Landing (KL): Summary above shows the non-clipped winter-run catch per unit effort (CPUE) increased last week to greater than 4.0 on 1/30. Total non-clipped winter-run caught for the week was 33. Total non-clipped fall-run Chinook was 2,702 for a weekly CPUE of 230. In addition, 55 non-clipped spring-run Chinook, and 2 non-clipped steelhead were observed in the trap, indicating increased movement of ESA listed species into the Delta. Previous to this week the winter-run CPUE has been averaging less than 1.0 up to 1/19.

FWS data (for 1/24 – 1/30):

Mossdale Kodiak Trawl: No species of concern

Sacramento Kodiak Trawl: 80 fall run, 1 winter-run, 1 ad-clipped Chinook, & 1 ad-clipped steelhead

Chippis Island Midwater Trawl; 2 winter-run, 1 late-fall, 25 ad-clipped Chinook, 6 ad-clipped steelhead, 16 splitail, 55 longfin smelt, 15 delta smelt

Beach Seines, 451 fall run, 5 spring-run (Verona, Garcia Bend, Clarksburg, Terminus, and B&W Marina), 4 winter-run (at Verona, Discovery Park, Garcia Bend, and Clarksburg), 3 ad-clipped Chinook, 2 ad-clipped steelhead (at Colusa), 1 Splitail

Mill and Deer Creeks: (Carol Stroble): 18 fall-run fry, 2 spring-run yearlings, and 2 steelhead in the Mill Cr trap. Deer Cr trap had 19 fall-run fry and no spring-run yearlings or steelhead.

CVP and SWP Fish Salvage Facilities (1/24 to – 2/1):

Winter-run loss increased significantly since last week. 127 winter-run loss at SWP and 12 at CVP. Highest day was 62 winter-run loss at SWP on 1/27. TYD cumulative loss rate is 147 non-clipped winter-run. For purposes of reporting, DOSS does not consider ad-clipped winter-run until they can be verified by reading the tags. The Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery is scheduled to release the first winter-run (198,000) February 10-11. FWS, Stockton Tag Lab, has received approximately 50 ad-clipped fish from the salvage facility that should be read by next week. NMFS is working with DFG and USBR to modify the reporting of ad-clipped fish at the fish facilities until they can be positively identified to race.

Daily loss density (daily loss/exports) reached approximately 8 on 1/27 (see Sheila's graph dated 2/1 on website below). For purposes of calculating the OMR criteria in the NMFS BiOp, DWR calculated the following based on non-clipped winter-run loss and a preliminary JPE of 1,144,860 (2% of JPE = 22,897). The first OMR fish density trigger is $22897 / 2000 = 11.4$ And the second fish density trigger would be $22897 / 1000 = 22.9$

Since the daily loss density, which ranged from 2 to 8 fish per taf last week < 11.4 , DOSS concluded the OMR fish density trigger in the NMFS biological opinion had not been reached. Fish monitoring data did not trigger or warrant any operational changes.

For fish data at other monitoring sites see:

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

Smelt Working Group: No advice this week to FWS. The SWG is monitoring water temperatures and turbidity.

Green Sturgeon update: No update

After the DOSS call Richard Corwin, USBR Red Bluff, reported that all tagged green sturgeon adults on the Sacramento River had moved downstream from the mouth of Deer Creek and GCID after the high flows on 1/13 and were by now probably in the Delta.

1) Other Compliance Standards: Old and Middle River flow update

	Current (2/02)	NMFS Limit	FWS limit
14-Day Running Average =	-4200 cfs	-5000 cfs	n/a
5-Day Running Average =	-5146 cfs	+ or - 25%	

2) Turbidity: Increasing at 2 locations above the 12 NTU 3 day average criteria. However, Victoria Canal remains under 12 NTU, therefore, the delta smelt turbidity trigger has not been reached.

Prisoners Point = 39.7 NTU
Holland Cut = 14.8 NTU
Victoria Canal = 6.5 NTU

3) Water operations: Current reservoir releases are at, or near minimum release levels: Keswick 3250 cfs, Oroville 1350 cfs, and Nimbus 1550 cfs. Inflows to the Delta are decreasing. Outflow is 33,000 cfs. Flows are 1,926 cfs at Vernalis (San Joaquin River), and 38,172 cfs at Freeport (Sacramento River). The X2 salinity compliance point has moved downstream to 56.3 kilometers (Carquinez Strait) due to recent storms. The E/I standard in D-1641 changes from a 65% to 35% ratio in February, and currently is at 15.3%. OMR flow criteria (-5,000 cfs in the NMFS BiOp) is currently controlling exports.

Weather forecast is intermittent rain this week with moderate precipitation on Friday and Saturday. The Feather River Basin is expected to increase to 150% of average. Sacramento River flows at Verona are expected to decrease from 31,000 cfs to 24,000 cfs by Friday and then increase over the weekend.

4) Other items: Stanislaus River: On Monday, February 1, the Stanislaus Operations Group (SOG) held a phone meeting to discuss the timing of the three day February pulse flow called for under the “Dry” year type schedule (Table 2) of Appendix 2-E of the NMFS OCAP Biological Opinion: at least three days of flows of at least 400 cfs (releases measured at Goodwin Dam), against a “background” minimum instream flow of 200 cfs. The Stanislaus River pulse flow is being done to mimic short-duration flow variability the river would have had before impoundment which may promote nutrient mobilization and provide *O. mykiss* with cues that may promote anadromy. Since Stanislaus flows are necessary to meet the Water Quality Control Plan D-1641 base flows (2250 cfs in February), Reclamation will shape the Stanislaus release to meet both the fish pulse and the flow standard in order to minimize the cost to CVPIA b2 water. Releases will hold for approximately 3 days at 600 cfs (2/2-2/4) and then drop to 400 cfs for 2 days (this falls at the beginning of an expected rain event).

No advice to WOMT or NMFS for the week of 2/1 to 2/6.

Next Mtg: 02/09/10 at 9:00 am