

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

02/23/10 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, Carol Stroble & Andy Chu (DWR), Nick Hindman & Roger Guinee (FWS), Jeff Stuart, Barbara Byrne, Garwin Yip & Bruce Oppenheim (NMFS), Thuy Washburn and John Hannon (USBR), Greg Wilson & Tom Kimball (SWRCB), Matt Nobriga (DFG).

Agenda: Fish monitoring data, spring-run loss update, & NMFS determination from Friday

Fish Monitoring: *FWS data (2/14 to 2/20):*

Mossdale Trawl; 1 fall-run Chinook

Sacramento Trawl; 8 fall-run Chinook, 2 winter-run Chinook, 6 clipped Chinook, 10 clipped steelhead

Chippis Island Trawl; 2 winter-run Chinook, 46 clipped steelhead, 3 splittail, 80 longfin smelt, 1 delta smelt

Beach Seines; 442 fall-run Chinook, 10 spring-run Chinook, 1 winter-run Chinook at Sandy Beach, 5 clipped steelhead & 1 wild steelhead (Knights Landing and Sandy Beach), 4 delta smelt at Sandy Beach near Rio Vista

CVP and SWP Fish Salvage Facilities (2/14 to 2/21):

Steelhead: The CVP salvaged 47 non-clipped steelhead for the week, and the SWP salvaged 24. The weekly steelhead salvage declined from last week (71 total compared to 334 last week). The cumulative total YTD is 497. The incidental take limit is 3,000 fish. It was noted that last week high numbers (150-200/day) of hatchery steelhead were salvaged. There is no take limit for hatchery steelhead.

Winter-run: The CVP non-clipped loss rate was 18 for the week and 70 at the SWP. Weekly total was 88 compared to 90 last week. The cumulative total for the year is 469. The incidental take limit is approximately 23,593 for non-clipped winter-run and 1,087 for hatchery winter-run based on preliminary estimates of juvenile production. Since October 1st, no hatchery winter-run (clipped) have been observed at the fish salvage facilities. 198,582 fish were released from Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery on February 10-11, 2010 at Caldwell Park near Redding (see spring-run surrogate Table 2 below). These fish are expected to start arriving in the Delta next week.

Sturgeon and Smelt: No green sturgeon have been observed since October 1st. At the CVP, 4 delta smelt were salvaged on 2/16, and 8 were on 2/19.

Daily loss and loss density for Chinook salmon remain low. Last week older juvenile loss peaked on 2/19 at 31 fish and loss density was 2.21 fish/taf (see table 1)

Table 1.

SWP & CVP			
Daily Older Juvenile Chinook Loss & Loss Density			
1/14/2010 through 2/21/2010			
Date	Older Juvenile Loss (fish)	Older Juvenile Loss Density (fish/taf)	
2/14/2010	1.59	0.13	
2/15/2010	5.76	0.49	
2/16/2010	16.96	1.44	
2/17/2010	5.04	0.43	
2/18/2010	0.00	0.00	
2/19/2010	31.54	2.21	
2/20/2010	17.70	1.24	
2/21/2010	8.88	0.62	

DWR-DES 2/22/2010
Preliminary, subject to revision

Table 2. Spring-run Surrogate Loss:

Coleman Hatchery Late-Fall and Winter Chinook Loss at the Delta Fish Facilities, 2009/2010, BASED ON DWR EDITS TO FWS CWT DATA

Release Date	CWT Race	Release Site	Loss	Release Number	% Loss	First Concern Level	Second Concern Level	Date of First Loss	Date of Last Loss
12/16/2009	LF	Battle Cr	1056.78	904699	0.12	n/a	n/a	12/26/2009	2/11/2010
12/28/2009	LF	Battle Cr	56.73	75676	0.07	0.5%	1.0%	1/22/2010	2/2/2010
1/14/2010	LF	Battle Cr	867.33	174386	0.50	0.5%	1.0%	1/24/2010	2/11/2010
2/10/2010	W	Redding	0.00	198582	0.00	0.5%	1.0%	*	*
		Lost tag	0.00						
		Non-read	322.75						
		since 2/21/2010	0.00						
		Unknown	322.75						
						Number of Non-Read Tags			53
						Revised 2/22/2010			

For Chinook lost 10/1/2009 through 2/21/2010

SWP Tags read 10/1/2009 through 2/11/2010

CVP Tags read 10/1/2009 through 2/11/2010

*Livingston Stone winter-run Chinook release

DWR ESTIMATE OF NON-CONFIRMED TAG LOSS & NEW TOTAL TAG LOSS THRU 2/21/2010							
Release Date	Confirm Tag Loss	Proportion Confirmed Tag Loss	Proportion Non-Confirmed Tag Loss	New Total	Released	% Loss	
12/16/2009	1056.78	0.53	172.19	1228.96	904699	0.14	
12/28/2009	56.73	0.03	9.24	65.97	75676	0.09	
1/14/2010	867.33	0.44	141.32	1008.64	174386	0.58	

LF = late fall Chinook, W = winter-run hatchery Chinook

No new tag data have been reported for this week. There are 53 unread tags that are expected to be read this week. Loss of Spring-run surrogates remains at 0.5 percent for the 1/14 release group. The estimated loss based on the proportion of tags read to date is 0.58 percent. No tags have been reported from the winter-run hatchery release.

Daily salvage and loss are expected to remain low this week due to the hydrology (decreasing flows into the Delta) and low pumping rates. Fish salvage at the facilities remains below any of the criteria in the NMFS and FWS biological opinions.

For fish data at other monitoring sites see:

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

Smelt Working Group (SWG): The group met on Monday to discuss the recent salvage and trawl data. For delta smelt monitoring, currently transitioning from adult to larval stage. No larval delta smelt have been found in the most recent surveys, however, ripe females have been observed and water temperatures are suitable to initiate spawning. FWS requested larval sampling to begin at the fish salvage facilities. The SWG recommended keeping OMR flows at no more negative than - 5,000 cfs.

Operations: Reviewed WOMT decision from Friday meeting and weekend operations at the CVP and SWP. Currently, export pumping is 6,400 cfs combined. OMR flows are -5,432 cfs (5 day running average) and -4,522 cfs (14 day running average). The daily OMR flow was -5,800 cfs yesterday and - 5,275 today. Exports are expected to remain the same with OMR flows no more negative than -5,000 cfs controlling this week. Total Delta inflows are dropping, Sacramento River at Freeport is 19,928 cfs and San Joaquin River at Vernalis is 2,439 cfs. The X2 position is moving upstream to 64.7 km and the E/I ratio is 28.9% (standard in February is 35%). Reservoirs are at minimum releases; Keswick 3250 cfs, Nimbus 1,300 cfs, and Oroville 1,350 cfs. Goodwin is still releasing 1,000 cfs to meet the SWRCB monthly flow target (2850 cfs) at Vernalis.

The weather outlook is for more rain through this week. 4.5 inches is expected in the Feather River Basin. None of the reservoirs are close to filling yet. The expected rain will increase river flows into the delta (approaching 30,000 cfs) by next week. However, pumping rates are not expected to change due to the OMR restriction.

DOSS advice for NMFS and WOMT (2/22 to 2/28). The DOSS group advises holding OMR flows to no more negative than -5,000 cfs, consistent with the NMFS opinion and SWG recommendation.

Next Mtg: Tuesday 3/2 at 9:00 am