

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

03/23/10 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: Andy Chu, Carol Stroble (DWR); Barbara Byrne, Bruce Oppenheim, Jeff Stuart (NMFS); Thuy Washburn, Josh Israel (USBR); Greg Wilson (SWRCB)

Agenda: fish monitoring and Delta water operations

Fish Monitoring:

Knights Landing (3/15 – 3/22): Reviewed trap data from last week. No winter-run have been caught in over 2 weeks (since 3/4). The number of juvenile salmonids entering the Delta remains low. Total catch was 27 salmon, yesterday's catch was 7 fish. Most of these were fall-run Chinook, however, there were 8 spring-run caught. No winter-run Chinook, tagged Chinook, or steelhead were reported. Catch per unit of effort was 0 for winter-run and 0 steelhead.

Mill and Deer Creek: Reported low numbers of fish caught in the rotary screw traps. Due to the DFG moving their offices in Red Bluff exact numbers were not yet available.

FWS Delta sampling (3/14 – 3/20)

Sacramento trawl; no salmon, 1 delta smelt (Sherwood Harbor)

Mossdale trawl; 1 fall-run Chinook

Chippis trawl; 11 winter-run Chinook, 8 tagged Chinook, 18 longfin smelt, and 3 Delta smelt

Beach seines; 53 fall-run Chinook, 11 spring-run Chinook, and 1 delta smelt (Garcia Bend)

CVP and SWP Fish Salvage Facilities (3/15 Monday – 3/21 Sunday):

Winter-run: This week DFG reported 195 non-clipped winter-run Chinook lost, (89) at CVP and (106) at the SWP, compared to 212 winter-run from last week. The cumulative loss to date is 1,428 non-clipped winter-run Chinook.

Steelhead: 54 non-clipped steelhead were salvaged this week, (28) at CVP, and (26) at SWP, compared to 30 last week. The combined cumulative salvage to date is 708 non-clipped steelhead (the incidental take limit is 3,000 non-clipped steelhead). The cumulative salvage of clipped, or hatchery steelhead is 3,412 to date. There is no incidental take limit for hatchery steelhead.

Sturgeon and Smelt: No green sturgeon have been observed since October 1st. At the CVP, 0 delta smelt were salvaged over the week, and 0 were salvaged at the SWP. Cumulative loss for delta smelt is 92 adults. No larval delta smelt or longfin smelt were observed at either facility.

Daily loss and loss density for Chinook salmon: Loss densities of older juvenile Chinook salmon (*i.e.*, winter-run, spring-run, and late-fall Chinook) increased from 0.98 fish/taf to 5.11 fish/taf on 3/19 and then decreased to 1.03 fish/taf on 3/21. The daily loss on Monday 3/22 was 66 older juveniles (SWP & CVP).

SWP & CVP
Daily Loss & Loss Density
1/1/2010 through 3/21/2010

Date	Older Juvenile Loss (# fish)	Older Juvenile Loss Density (fish/taf)
3/15/2010	9.57	0.98
3/16/2010	14.96	1.34
3/17/2010	18.13	1.47
3/18/2010	35.10	2.54
3/19/2010	72.88	5.11
3/20/2010	27.96	2.02
3/21/2010	14.28	1.03

DWR-DES 3/22/2010
Preliminary, subject to revision

CWT data (from DWR): The spring-run surrogate release on 1/14/2010 confirmed loss rate is 0.551 percent (because these fish have likely already passed through the Delta, no OMR action is advised). The winter-run hatchery release on 2/10/2010 confirmed loss rate is 0.117 percent. Projected winter-run hatchery loss rate is 0.166 percent with 9 tags left unread. Given the low number of unread tags and declining salvage it is unlikely that the 0.5 percent trigger for winter-run hatchery fish will be met. Hatchery winter-run loss YTD is 127 and the incidental take limit for Hatchery fish is 1,087.

DOSS subgroup update: Earliest possible date this group can meet is the week of 4/5-4/9 (court schedule hampers an earlier date) to review the second trigger in the NMFS OMR action.

For fish data at other monitoring sites see:

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

1) Other Compliance Standards: Old and Middle River (OMR) flow update from USGS CDEC data reported 3/23 from DWR delta operations.

	Current	NMFS Limit	FWS/DFG limit
14-Day Running Average	= -4,309 cfs	-5000 cfs	-5000 cfs
5-Day Running Average	= -5,152 cfs	-5000 cfs ± 25%	

2) Water operations: Exports are 3,400 cfs at CVP and 3,500 cfs at SWP, however, the CVP is dropping a unit to 2,500 cfs due to decreased delta inflows. Reservoir releases are at minimums. The Export to Inflow Ratio (E/I ratio) has increased to 31% (35% E/I standard in March) due to

ivers dropping off. The E/I ratio may be controlling this week rather than OMR as the inflows drop off, DWR will evaluate. The Sacramento River at Freeport has declined to 14,708 cfs today. The San Joaquin River actually increased yesterday from 2,300 cfs to 2,800 cfs, but the increase is likely a result Don Pedro Dam spilling water for flood control on the Tuolumne River. The 8-River Index for March will probably be close to 2 MAF, therefore, requiring 25 days of compliance at Chipps Is for the X2 standard in SWRCB D-1641. April may be a problem for meeting D-1641 requirements as river flows drop and X2 moves further upstream.

Weather outlook: Dry for the next week

3) Smelt Working Group (SWG) Jeff Sturt reported: The SWG met on Monday and recommended an OMR of no more negative than – 5,000 cfs. No larval delta smelt have been seen at the fish facilities or in the Delta monitoring. There was a reduced level of concern since no adult delta smelt have been salvaged this week. Water temperatures in the Delta have warmed and are now suitable for spawning. No longfin smelt were caught at the facilities and DFG did not have a recommendation.

DOSS advice for NMFS and WOMET (3/22-3/29). Based on evaluation of the first and third triggers under Action IV.2.3 [Old and Middle River Management (NMFS Opinion page 649)], the DOSS technical team advice to NMFS and WOMET is to maintain an OMR flow of no more negative than - 5,000 cfs to protect winter-run and steelhead juveniles emigrating through the Delta.

Next Mtg: Tuesday 3/30 at 9:00 am. Agenda items: Stanislaus Operations Group update, VAMP update, and NMFS San Joaquin R to exports ratio