

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

04/06/10 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, & Pat Brandes (FWS); Bruce Oppenheim & Barbara Byrne (NMFS); Thuy Washburn, Racheal Barnett-Johnson, Josh Israel, & John Hannon (USBR); Greg Wilson & Kari Kyler (SWRCB)

Agenda: fish monitoring and Delta water operations

Fish Monitoring:

Knights Landing (3/29-4/5): Juvenile salmonids entering the Delta continues to decline. Total catch for the week was 8 salmon, ranging from 1-3 fish/day. There were 2 fall-run, 5 spring-run, and 1 winter-run Chinook caught last week. No steelhead or clipped Chinook were caught. Catch per unit of effort was 0.062 for winter-run averaged for the week. This week Coleman National Fish Hatchery started releasing their fall-run Chinook production (6.8 million of 12-14 million total production) in the upper Sacramento River at Battle Creek. These fish are expected to start showing up at Knights Landing by next week. According to hatchery protocol the 2009 brood year will include 25% marked (adipose fin clip and CWT) and 75% unmarked.

Mill and Deer Creek (3/30-4/5):

The Mill trap captured 114 Chinook YOY (32-68 mm fl), 12 yearling spring Chinook (100-141 mm fl) and 12 steelhead (96-225 mm fl). Flows ranged from 282-477 cfs.

The Deer trap captured 20 Chinook YOY (34-63 mm fl), 2 spring-run yearlings (118 and 112 mm fl) and no steelhead. Flows ranged from 334-513 cfs.

FWS Data (3/28- 4/13):

Note: Sacramento trawls changed gears on April 1st and Mid-water trawls have replaced Kodiak trawls. Also, region 4 (DFG) has taken over Mossdale Kodiak trawls on March 28th for the spring quarter and will usually send us data within 2 week after sampling.

Sacramento KDTR and MWTR; 1 fall-run Chinook
Chippis Island MWTR, 1 CHNF; 17 spring-run Chinook, 4 winter-run Chinook, 2 tagged Chinook, 2 steelhead, 1 clipped steelhead, & 1 longfin smelt
Beach Seine; 35 fall-run Chinook, 13 spring-run Chinook, 1 winter-run Chinook, & 2 splittail

Mossdale Kodiak trawl (Pat Brandes reported): DFG is trawling 10 tows/day at Mossdale starting the catch salmon. (3/29 – 4/5) total non-clipped Chinook for the week is 28, averaging 4-5 per day. Likely a result of higher flows being released this week in the San Joaquin River. Vernalis flows increased from 1910 cfs on April 1 to 3,400 cfs on April 4 due to rain and increase in Stanislaus River releases.

CVP and SWP Fish Salvage Facilities (3/29 Monday – 4/4 Sunday):

Winter-run: This week 35 non-clipped winter-run Chinook lost; (17) at CVP and (18) at the SWP, compared to 153 winter-run lost last week. The cumulative loss to date is 1,614 non-clipped winter-run Chinook.

Steelhead: 23 non-clipped steelhead were salvaged this week; (19) at CVP, and (4) at SWP, compared to 47 salvaged last week. The combined cumulative salvage to date is 778 non-clipped steelhead (the incidental take limit is 3,000 non-clipped steelhead). The cumulative salvage of clipped, or hatchery steelhead is 3,470 to date. There is no incidental take limit for hatchery steelhead.

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

Daily loss densities for Chinook salmon (3/29-4/4): Loss densities of older juveniles (i.e., winter-run, spring-run and late-fall) continues to decline at the fish facilities. Loss density was less than 1.46 fish/taf and Chinook salmon were only caught 3 out of 7 days last week.

SWP & CVP

**Daily Older Juvenile Chinook Loss & Loss Density
1/1/2010 through 4/5/2010**

Date	Older Juvenile Loss (# fish)	Older Juvenile Loss Density (fish/taf)
3/29/2010	0.00	0.00
3/30/2010	12.76	1.03
3/31/2010	17.56	1.46
4/1/2010	0.00	0.00
4/2/2010	0.00	0.00
4/3/2010	0.00	0.00
4/4/2010	3.88	1.36

DWR-DES 4/5/2010

Preliminary, subject to revision

CWT data: No clipped fish were salvaged last week, and no tags were read, so there was no change in the hatchery winter-run and spring-run surrogate loss numbers.

The data indicate that emigration of juvenile salmon and steelhead has declined both into and out of the Delta. Salvage and loss at the fish facilities is declining with few salmon being observed. Current loss rates and loss densities are below the triggers identified in the NMFS opinion.

DOSS subgroup update: Will meet Monday 4/12 at 1:30 pm (DWR offices in West Sacramento) to discuss the salvage and loss triggers in the NMFS BiOp.

Smelt Working Group (SWG): The SWG met on Monday and recommended no change in the OMR flow rate of no more negative than – 5,000 cfs. Andy reported no juvenile or adult smelt at either facility

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 4/6 from DWR delta operations. Daily OMR is running positive (70 -100 cfs) due to the change in exports and increased San Joaquin River flows. Reclamation is cutting back on the Goodwin release from 1,300 cfs to 1,000 cfs due to higher than expected releases from the Tuolumne River and recent storms adding to the Vernalis flow. The Tuolumne River increased from 200 cfs to 650 cfs from April 1 – April 15 due to some carryover water from last year. San Joaquin River restoration flows are being released and reported down as far as the Merced River. How these flows will be accounted for is still under review by Reclamation. Currently, due to the biological opinions there is no capacity to recapture these flows at the export facilities. VAMP starts on 4/25, delayed to allow fish time to grow to sufficient size to tag. VAMP flows from the tributaries will be finalized on April 14. Tagged fish are scheduled to be released from 4/27 through 5/20.

	Current	NMFS Limit	FWS/DFG limit
14-Day Running Average	= -3,092 cfs	-5000 cfs	-5000 cfs
5-Day Running Average	= -528 cfs	-6250 cfs*	

**per p.648 of the NMFS Opinion, the 5-day running average of OMR shall “be no more than 25% more negative than the targeted requirement requirement flow for the 14-day average flow.”*

2) Water operations (4/6):

Clifton Court Inflow (SWP) =	700 cfs
Jones Pumping Plant (CVP) =	800 cfs
Total Delta Inflow ~	20,050 cfs
Sacramento River =	14,370 cfs
San Joaquin River =	3,539 cfs
% Inflow Diverted =	8.6% (14-day avg)

Weather outlook: Dry this week, with light showers forecast for this weekend.

3) Stanislaus River Operations Group (SOG):

SOG meets monthly, on the third Wednesday of the month. Meeting summaries are available on the SOG webpage: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/sog.htm>

Current RPA Actions on the Stanislaus include:

- a temperature action (Action II.1.2, p. 620-622 of the NMFS Opinion)
Criterion and Temperature Compliance Location
--temperature below 52°F at Knight's Ferry [Jan 1-May 31]
--temperature below 55°F at Orange Blossom Bridge (OBB) [Jan 1-May 31]

The exception procedure for this action (p. 621) was initiated in March.
OBB temperature data on CDEC: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=OBB&d=today>

- a flow action (Action III.1.3, p. 622-626 of the NMFS Opinion)
-- minimum Stanislaus flows (measured at Goodwin Dam (GDW)) are to follow the schedule in Appendix 2-E of the NMFS Opinion (the DRY year type schedule, based on the March forecast). The DRY year flow schedule calls for a pulse of at least 1000 cfs from 4/11-5/15.

A public notice was issued regarding the higher Stanislaus flows expected during April. Currently, flow at Goodwin is about 1350cfs and it will likely drop to 1000cfs over the next few days. Another notice will be issued in May if flows are expected to exceed 1500cfs.

4) Other items: Dan Kratville, DFG, will replace Matt Nobriga on the DOSS.

DOSS advice for NMFS and WOMT (4/5 – 4/12). The DOSS team advice is to continue meeting the required OMR flow (Action IV.2.3), Stanislaus River flow (Action III.1.3), and San Joaquin River Inflow to Export Ratio (Action IV.2.1) as required in the NMFS biological opinion for the protection of listed steelhead.

Next Mtg: April 20th at 9:00 am.