

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

06/22/10 Conference 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.htm>

Attendees: Mike Ford, & Carol Stroble (DWR); Nick Hindman (FWS); Bruce Oppenheim & Jeff Stuart(NMFS); Thuy Washburn (USBR); Greg Wilson & Kari Kyler (SWRCB)

Agenda: fish monitoring updates, Delta water operations, next meeting date

Fish Monitoring:

Mill/Deer Creek (6/8 – 6/15) Colleen Harvey, DFG, reported: The Mill Cr trap fished continuously this reporting period. The trap catch included: 21 Chinook YOY (47-84 mm fl), no spring Chinook yearlings, and 17 steelhead (34-233 mm fl). Flows are still high and temperature is cold (58°F) due to snowmelt. Flows ranged from 556 - 774 cfs. Trap catch has slowed significantly with two, zero Chinook days. The trap will continue fishing until 7 consecutive days of no salmonids, or we get salmonid mortality in the trap due to lethal water temperatures (typically when minimum daily temps get between 60-65°F). This is the last report for the remainder of the trapping season. The Deer Creek trap stopped on 5/24, because the landowner denied road access.

Knights Landing (6/7-6/17) Robert Vincik, DFG reported: The catch for the week has slowed down considerable with zero catch days reported on 6/7, 6/10, and 6/17. Water temperatures at Knights Landing have increased to 70 F, which usually signals the end of salmon out migration. A total of 6 Chinook were caught over the last 4 days of sampling, all were identified as juvenile fall-run Chinook. No other species of concern. The weekly catch per unit of effort (CPUE) has declined to 0.74 for fall-run Chinook.

	Flows (cfs)	Temp(F)	Catch	Species	CPUE
06/07/10	15,133	67	0		0
06/10/10	13,146	66	0		0
06/14/10	9,879	69	6	Fall-run	0.74
06/17/10		70	0		0

FWS Sampling Data: No data reported before the call.

Mossdale Kodiak trawl (6/14-6/18) Steve Tsao, DFG: The number of salmon observed has dropped off significantly on the San Joaquin River. Only 4 non-clipped Chinook were reported in 3 days of sampling last week. No steelhead were caught. The cumulative total for this year is

only 302 Chinook, and 3 steelhead YTD. This is less than half of the total Chinook for last year in June.

Mossdale Trawl total catch YTD

	Chinook	Steelhead
2008	1695	4
2009	638	1
2010	302	3

CVP and SWP Fish Salvage Facilities (6/14 Monday – 6/20 Sunday): No winter-run Chinook were reported at either facility last week. The total non-clipped winter-run for the year was 1,661 juveniles. 4 non-clipped steelhead were salvaged at the CVP on 6/15, and 48 non-clipped steelhead were salvaged at the SWP on 6/19. The total non-clipped steelhead combined for both facilities is 1,025 YTD. Steelhead continue to be observed in the Delta due to the wet spring and cooler water temperatures. No green sturgeon, delta smelt, or longfin smelt were salvaged this week. No green sturgeon have been salvaged all year (since October 1, 2009).

Daily loss densities for Chinook salmon (6/14-6/20): No older juveniles were loss this week, therefore no loss density reported.

CWT data: All coded wire tags (CWT) collected from the Delta fish facilities have been read. The hatchery winter-run Chinook loss was 139 or 0.128 percent of the total release from Livingston Stone Hatchery on 2/10/10. This is below the first concern level of 0.5 percent. It is not expected that any more hatchery winter-run will be salvaged this year since most have moved through the delta by now.

Real-time fish monitoring data can be found at:

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

Smelt Working Group (SWG): There was a call Monday 6/21. The SWG recommended maintaining an Old and Middle River (OMR) flow of no more negative than -5,000 cfs through this week. Concern level was low for juvenile delta smelt since most were in the western Delta. 3 new monitoring stations were added in the Suisun Marsh area.

Summary: The fish monitoring data indicate that most juvenile salmonids have stopped emigrating from the tributaries due to warmer temperatures (*i.e.*, 70°F on the Sacramento River). However, a few steelhead continue to be salvaged at the Delta fish facilities, which is typical in a wet spring. The current loss and salvage at the Delta pumps is below the triggers identified in the NMFS Opinion.

Water Project Operations:

CVP pumping 3,500 cfs

SWP pumping 3,500 cfs

OMR flows: -6,400 cfs today, -6,500 cfs yesterday, -4,009 cfs (5 day running average), and -4,879 (14 day running average). Exports are being controlled by FWS BiOp criteria for delta

smelt, which is -5,000 cfs OMR until July 1st. Projects are still in “excess condition”, but expect to be in “balanced condition” after July 1. Water transfers will start in July. Inflows into the Delta are rapidly decreasing as reservoirs are cutting back on releases. Sacramento River at Freeport declined to 15,729 cfs and the San Joaquin River at Vernalis has declined to 3,040 cfs. The Delta Cross Channel gates are open.

Reservoir releases:

Trinity	2,000 cfs
Clear Cr	150 cfs
Sacramento	11,000 cfs
Feather	1,000 cfs
American	3,500 cfs
Stanislaus	250 cfs

DOSS advice for NMFS and WOMT (6/22). No advice was given, other than maintain OMR flows at -5,000 cfs, per the FWS criteria.

Next call: Sept. 14 at 9:00 am

Future agenda items:

- 1) DOSS subgroup update on 2nd OMR trigger
- 2) Review of USBR study design for 6-year acoustic tag study (July?)
- 3) Review of this year's operations (Sept?)
- 4) DCC gate closure in October for proposed Mokelumne R. pulse flow (Sept)