

**Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group**  
**Conference call: 1/17/12 at 9:00 a.m.**

**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 on salmonids and green sturgeon. DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>

**DWR:** Mike Ford, Edmund Yu, Angela Llaban, Kevin Reece, Andy Chu, James Gleim,  
**FWS:** Roger Guinee, Leigh Bartoo  
**NMFS:** Barbara Rocco, Bruce Oppenheim, Barb Byrne, Jeff Stuart  
**Reclamation:** Russ Yaworsky, John Hannon  
**DFG:** Bob Fujimura, Robert Vincik  
**EPA, SWRCB:** not present

**Agenda**

1. Fish monitoring
2. Current operations
3. Annual review comments
4. Settlement agreement—DOSS role

**Action Item [11/15/11]**

Evaluate the data from Mill and Deer Creek RSTs, Tisdale, and Knights Landing RSTs and compare the timing of spring-run Chinook salmon migration captured by each data set. **Carry until we get Mill and Deer Creek data overview from DFG.**

**Action Item [1/3/12]:** Review the DOSS section of the annual review report and provide comments regarding implementation of suggestions. **Carry**

**Fish Monitoring:** The following table presents fish monitoring data. **Because of the holiday on Monday, January 16, data from only Tisdale and Knights Landing were received.** Unless otherwise noted, reported sizes are fork length. See: <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>.

Location	Chippis Is. Midwater Trawl	Sacramento Kodiak Trawl	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl	Beach Seines	Knights Landing RST	Tisdale Weir RST
Sample Date					1/11, 13, 16	1/11, 13, 16
Total Catch					2	15
FR						1
WR						
SR						
LFR					1	

<b>Ad-Clipped Chinook</b>					1	13
<b>DS</b>						
<b>Splittail</b>						
<b>Longfin</b>						
<b>SH (ad-clip)</b>						
<b>SH (wild)</b>						1
<b>W. Temp. (avg. °F)</b>					47.3	46.3
<b>Flows (avg. cfs)</b>					5410	5480
<b>Turbidity (avg. NTU)</b>					14.3	10.7
<b>WR/LFR Avg. CPUE</b>					0.08	
<b>FR/SR Avg. CPUE</b>						0.09

**Key:** FR = Fall run; LFR = Late-fall run; SR = Spring run; WR = Winter run; SH = Steelhead; DS = Delta smelt; LFS = Longfin smelt; SPTL = Splittail, CPUE = catch per unit of effort, ACT = acoustical tag

**American River:** Approximately 14,000 fall-run were counted in the carcass survey. On 12/10/11, an additional 12,589 fall-run were taken in at the Nimbus Hatchery; of these, approximately 6,500 were grilse (2 year olds), 4,306 were removed from the hatchery weir; 9% (389) of these were ad-clipped and 65% were grilse size.

**Fish Salvage Data (1/9 through 1/16)** Reports are also posted at <ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage>: and you can locate the table under folder “DOSS salvage tables” (you can also try <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx>) and click on “salvage FTP site”).

Chinook salmon: (Note: Race of clipped salmon is determined solely by length of the fish at date criteria on date of salvage and should be treated as preliminary and may be subject to change when the USBR and FWS reports the tag information on race.)

One winter-run-size ad-clipped Chinook (identified as a late-fall run from the coded wire tag from Coleman NFH’s first late-fall production release on 12/16/11) was salvaged at the CVP on 1/11/12 for an expanded salvage of four. No winter-run hatchery fish have been released yet. The water-year (10/1/2011 to present) salvage totals of all races of Chinook salmon at the CVP are 4 adipose clipped (loss = 4) and 19 non-clipped (loss = 13). No Chinook salmon have been salvaged at the SWP this water year.

Steelhead: No steelhead were salvaged at either facility for the period. The water-year salvage totals of steelhead at the SWP are zero adipose clipped and 8 non-clipped. No steelhead have been salvaged at the CVP this water year.

Delta smelt: No delta smelt have been salvaged at either facility this water year.

Longfin smelt: No longfin smelt have been salvaged at either facility this water year.

Splittail: Splittail were salvaged at the SWP (weekly expanded salvage = 12), but not at the CVP for the period. The water-year salvage total of splittail at the CVP is 178. The water-year salvage total of splittail at the SWP is 3,739.

White sturgeon: No white sturgeon were salvaged at either facility for the period of reporting. The water-year salvage total of white sturgeon at the CVP is 60. No white sturgeon have been salvaged at the SWP this water year.

Green sturgeon: No green sturgeon have been salvaged at either facility this water year.

Hatchery fish counts are not included in fish-density calculations used to identify the triggers in Action IV.2.3; however, they are tracked separately by DWR to identify the third “first stage” trigger in Action IV.2.3. Because the fish facilities are now reading the tags in real time, we can verify the race when the tags are read and fish data are input into the DWR database. CVP has been prompt in providing the tag-code information when they provide the salvage information.

The group discussed options for tracking the coded wire tag (CWT) information from salvaged fish. Currently, the DFG salvage database includes only race information based on the length-at-date tables, while DWR (for its annual report on incidental take) does track information based on CWTs. Coleman NFH is very good about sending out the tag-code information as the fish are released; however, some hatcheries do not provide that information until several months after all fish are released (e.g., in June). Llaban (DWR) sends out a request to the hatcheries for the release information and tag codes.

There was general agreement that tracking tag information was valuable, and some discussion about managing that information in the DFG vs. DWR databases.

Llaban will continue to track the salvage and density information and provide a table to DOSS as in the past. Salvage data from DFG and graphs from DWR will no longer be attached to the DOSS reminder because they are now available on the respective websites.

**Action item: DOSS requests that DFG reconcile the database for hatchery fish that fall within the winter-run size category for this year with the tags that are read from the fish facilities. This can be done with a simple feedback loop from DWR with the tag information.**

If reconciling the DWR and DFG databases will trigger more work for the agencies, Reclamation will need to also weigh in on this request. A formal request from NMFS would carry more weight and might be more appropriate. DFG will want to have a meeting with the fishery agencies to go over all the requested revisions. There are other requests to update the fish salvage database which will need to be prioritized first.

**Action item: DWR, Reclamation, NMFS, and DFG will meet to discuss how best to include CWT information in available salvage databases, both going forward and perhaps retrospectively. Bob Fujimura, DFG, agreed to lead this effort and provide a list of what needs to be revised.**

**JPE:** NMFS is still waiting for documentation from the Winter-Run Project Work Team (PWT) notes, and also working on the JPE and incidental take limit letter to Reclamation, as discussed last week,. Alice Low (DFG) is responding to comments now and preparing the final PWT notes. The PWT revised the JPE this year to include survival through the Delta to Chipps Island. The number of winter-run estimated exiting the Delta this year is estimated at about 65,000.

**Operations (1/17/12)**

SWP		CVP	
<b>Exports (cfs)</b>			
Clifton Court Forebay	4,000	Jones Pumping Plant	1,900
<b>Reservoir Releases (cfs)</b>			
Feather - Oroville	1,750	American - Nimbus	1,700 (will remain for rest of January)
		Sacramento - Keswick	4,500 (reduce by 100 per day beginning 1/18/12 to 4,000 by Sunday)
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	600
<b>Reservoir Storage (in TAF, % of capacity)</b>			
San Luis ( (SWP)	994 (70 TAF left to fill)	San Luis (CVP)	964
Oroville	2,491	Shasta	3,047
		Folsom	392
		New Melones	
<b>Delta Operations</b>			
DCC	Closed (since 12/1/11)	Sacramento River at Freeport (cfs)	11,515
Outflow Index (cfs)	6,600	San Joaquin River (cfs) at Vernalis	1,640
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	13,775	OMR (daily) (CDEC) (cfs)	-4,500 (from -5,500)
Water Temperature (°F)		OMR 5 day (CDEC) (cfs)	-4,768
X2 (km)	>81	OMR 14 day (CDEC) (cfs)	-4,852
E/I	43.6		

**Delta Conditions:** Balanced

**Weather Forecast:** Rain beginning on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. A winter storm is expected to drop 9 inches of precipitation above Shasta and 5 inches in the American River basin.

**CVP/SWP Joint Stipulation:** This was filed in court on 1/11/12 but, to date, the presiding judge has not signed the order. DOSS assumes that it will go forward and needs to discuss its role. The stipulation establishes that if flows at Vernalis allow, a rock barrier will be installed at the head of Old River, and SWP and CVP will be operated to maintain OMR flows within a specified range in lieu of the inflow:export ratio under Action IV.2.1 of the NMFS BiOp during April and May 2012. The inflow:export ratio in Action IV.2.1 is intended to protect San Joaquin basin steelhead. The stipulation calls for NMFS, Reclamation, and DWR to jointly host a technical workshop in early February to review data availability, modeling tools, and outputs and other scientific approaches for establishing real-time operations screening criteria for OMR

parameter selection within the specified ranges. This workshop is scheduled for 2/7/12. DOSS members should plan to attend. Byrne (NMFS) will forward the workshop invitation to the DOSS group.

It should be noted that OMR flow management per Action IV.2.3 is not addressed in the joint stipulation. Byrne is putting together a “planning committee” for the workshop. There is a separate group working on evaluating what sort of acoustic tag information that may be available in 2012. This group met last Friday and will meet again on 2/3/2012. Participating in the workshop is an opportunity for DOSS members to affect a change in the process. Please review the joint stipulation, which also calls for some additional studies and for DWR to “convene a Delta Conditions Team (DCT) consisting of scientists and engineers from the state and Federal agencies, Plaintiffs, and Defendant-Intervenors to review the real time operations and Delta conditions, including potential modeling utilizing the Delta Passage Model, PTM, and other applicable modeling tools, in conjunction with the real time monitoring, to assist in evaluating the potential effects of planned water operations on salmonids and sturgeon.”

Mike Ford and Kevin Reece (DWR) agreed to be on the technical workshop planning committee with Byrne and Oppenheim (NMFS).

**Action item:** Discuss joint stipulation during each conference call.

**Annual review response:** No update yet.

**Smelt Working Group (SWG):** Meeting today same time as DOSS.

**DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS:** None

**Next Meeting:** January 24, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.