

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group
Conference call: 10/11/11 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: Angela Llaban, Andy Chu, Jim Gleim, Edmund Yu
FWS: Roger Guinee, Leigh Bartoo, Pat Brandes
NMFS: Barbara Rocco, Bruce Oppenheim, Garwin Yip, Jeff Stuart
Reclamation: Josh Israel
DFG: Bob Fujimura, Joe Johnson
EPA, SWRCB: not present

Agenda

1. Comments on annual review report
2. DCC gate closure update
3. New data reporting protocols
4. Current operations
5. Fish monitoring

Meeting Notes: DOSS is trying to get out the draft meeting notes before the WOMT meetings on Tuesdays and have them finalized by the end of the week to be posted on the NMFS website. Please do your best to review and comment on the notes as quickly as possible.

Annual Report: DOSS continues to work on the annual report and emailed the final draft to the group this morning. Please review this draft and submit any comments by noon today, if possible. We are waiting for Reclamation to review it, after which the final goes to the Delta Science Program to forward to the Independent Review Panel.

Israel will provide a short summary of the 6-year study (emailed after the meeting). It includes data on the flow periods studied after the hatchery releases and has useful information related to exports and inflows. Any benefits to salmonids seemed more of a function of high inflows than of action-related responses; however, it is difficult to separate the two. Israel will give a presentation at the annual review workshop.

Status of DCC Gate Closure Proposal: The DCC gates are closed from October 4–14 (10 days) if water quality (WQ) remains good for the Mokelumne River pulse-flow study. According to the DSMII model run by DWR last Thursday, WQ is predicted to remain stable and the closure will last through all 10 days. DFG is reviewing the monitoring (camera) set up on the Mokelumne River; there were 100 fish seen on 10/3 and about 200 passed on 10/4 at the Woodbridge Dam fish ladder. DFG should receive more data from EBMUD later today. The pulse flows began on 10/4; it takes about 1 day for the water to get down to Woodbridge Dam (Hwy 99). This information should help DWR with modeling.

Data Reporting Protocols: DWR met with DFG, USBR, and NMFS on 9/30/11 to discuss salvage data reporting and the needs of the DOSS group. DWR and DFG agreed that salvage data would be reported on a daily basis as soon as salmon salvage begins. Until then, DFG will report weekly. The group agreed to report daily Chinook data by race using the length-at-date method. The loss density for unclipped older juveniles will also be reported by DFG and DWR (Llaban) will continue to run loss-density calculations for quality control. Both fish facilities will report daily CWT data on hatchery-released fish.

For steelhead, a formula for loss density has not been validated. The fish agencies agreed to continue using simple expansion constants used to approximate Chinook salmon losses until a formula specifically for steelhead can be developed. There was agreement that we need to have a new steelhead loss formula for the fish facilities.

We also discussed that it is difficult to distinguish between white and green sturgeon if the fish is less than 100 mm. Although not required in the BiOp, we recognized that we would most likely need DNA or genetic verification of sturgeon in the 100-mm or smaller size range. A protocol for sturgeon is being developed at the Tracy Fish Facility.

Action Item: Check on green sturgeon ID protocols for this year.

Oppenheim thanked both DWR and DFG for working on these protocols and making these important monitoring and reporting changes for the coming year.

Fish Monitoring: The following table presents the fish monitoring data from to 10/10/11. For additional info: <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>

There were no reports received from FWS, and Knights Landing was the only report received from DFG when today’s meeting convened.

Location	Chippis Is. Midwater Trawl	Sacramento Kodiak Trawl	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl	Beach Seines	Knights Landing RST	Tisdale Weir RST	Moulton Weir RST
Sample Date	10/2–10/8			10/2–10/8	10/6, 10/10	10/3–10/10	
Total Catch	1			1	2	0	
FR	1						
LFR							
WR				1	2		
SR							
Ad-Clipped Chinook							
DS	40			1			
LFS							
SPTL				10			
SH (ad-clip)							

SH (wild)							
W.Temp. (avg. °F)					59.5		
Flows (avg. cfs)					8,933		
Turbidity (avg. NTU)					7.1		
FR/SR Avg. CPUE					0	0	
WR/LFR Avg. CPUE					0.13	0	

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

Knights Landing: The rotary screw traps were installed on 10/4/11. The first monitoring date was 10/6/11; no fish were caught. On 10/10/11, 2 winter-run size fish were caught; this is earlier than last year. The crew will go back out to check the traps on Thursday. As more fish are caught, they will monitor and check the traps more frequently (checking three x/week right now). Last year, the first winter-run Chinook showed up on 10/27/10; typically, they show up in November (using data from the last 10 years).

Delta salvage facilities: One steelhead was salvaged, which expanded to 4 in September. The water temperature was nearly 70°F in Old River, so this catch seemed a little out of the norm. DFG looked at the historical salvage data and found that steelhead have been seen occasionally in September. No steelhead have been salvaged since then.

Data from 9/25–10/1/11: There was no DOSS call last week; therefore, the previous week’s data was provided to the group today. At the beach seines, there were 2 splittail and 2 delta smelt; at Mossdale, 2 splittail; at Chipps Island, 1 adult and 1 juvenile Chinook, 27 splittail, and 49 delta smelt.

Fall midwater trawl: The data from the September midwater trawl look encouraging as all the POD species showed increased abundance. The September index:

- Delta smelt, 50 (6 last year)
- Striped bass, 112 (16 last year)
- American shad, 413(130 last year)
- Threadfin shad, 67 (37 last year)
- Longfin, 68 (2 last year)

FWS cautioned that this is only a 1-month comparison and we will continue to monitor through the remainder of fall. The surveys are done each month, usually during the first part of the month, and continue for 4 months. The monthly index is calculated after each survey is done and the data are usually released later in the month depending on available staffing.

Operations (10/11/11)

SWP		CVP	
Exports (cfs)			
Clifton Court Forebay	6,680	Jones Pumping Plant	4,200
Reservoir releases (cfs)			
Feather - Oroville	3,500 ramping toward 2,500 or less by 10/15	American - Nimbus	4,000
		Sacramento - Keswick	8,200 ramping down to 7,000
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	
Reservoir Storage (TAF)			
San Luis (SWP)	898	San Luis (CVP)	661
Oroville	2,953	Shasta	3,291
		Folsom	688
		New Melones	~2,000
Delta Operations			
DCC	Closed	Sacramento River at Freeport (cfs)	21,369
Outflow Index (cfs)	15,700	San Joaquin River (cfs)	4,939
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	28,349	OMR (daily)	
Water Temperature (°F)		OMR 5 day	
X2 (km)	71 (avg. 72 km)	OMR 14 day	
E/I	37.1%		

San Luis: The reservoir will most likely fill in late November or December for the federal side and December for state side.

X2 is moving westward. The first rain did not increase flows much in the Sacramento River; not too much higher (~1,000 cfs at the most) at Freeport.

Weather: We should have clearing today and over the next 2–3 days. A small system is coming in over the weekend but will be mainly cloud cover and lower temperatures. There won't be much precipitation this weekend or over the next 10 days.

DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS: None

Next Meeting: Conference call on Tuesday, 10/18/11, 9:00 a.m.

Agenda items for next call on 10/18/11

- Coordination of fall attraction flows from the San Joaquin River tributaries.
- A tentative schedule for Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus flows. We should assume that the current release schedule is being implemented unless we hear otherwise.
- New fall X2 requirement this year. What will be implemented for the last 2 weeks in October and what is the plan for November?