

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group
Conference call: 5/19/2015 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 work with other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/doss.html.

DWR: Farida Islam, Rhiannon Mulligan, Aaron Miller, Kevin Reece, Mike Ford

Reclamation: Peggy Manza, Michele Palmer, Josh Israel

NMFS: Barb Byrne, Jeff Stuart, Meiling Roddam

USFWS: Roger Guinee

CDFW: Mike Eakin

SWRCB: Matt Holland

Agenda Items

1. Agenda review and introductions
2. RPA Implementation review
3. Current Operations
4. Smelt Working Group
5. Fish Monitoring
6. DOSS Advice
7. Next DOSS meeting

Agenda Item 2.

RPA Implementation Review

Delta RPA Actions affecting operations during May:

Action IV.1.2 (DCC gate operations):

- DCC gate were opened Thursday, May 14, and closed Monday, May 18, as allowed per the DCC trigger matrix¹ in the current Drought Operations plan².

Action IV.2.3 (OMR Flow Management)

- The OMR limit of no more negative than -5,000 cfs is in effect.

Action IV.2.1 (I:E ratio)

- Currently, the Critical year 1:1 ratio (of San Joaquin inflow at Vernalis to combined CVP/SWP exports) is in effect. This action restricts combined exports to 100% of Vernalis flow, or 1,500 cfs, whichever is greater.

¹ <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2014/10/Attachment-G-of-the-2014-Operations-Plan.pdf>

² See 3/24/15 documents from Reclamation, 3/27/15 letter from NMFS, and 4/6/15 SWRCB Revised Order at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/tucp.shtml

Agenda Item 3.
Current Operations (5/19/2015)

SWP		CVP	
Exports (cfs)			
Clifton Court Forebay	600 ^A	Jones Pumping Plant	230 ^A
Reservoir Releases (cfs)			
Feather - Oroville	3,250	American - Nimbus	1,250 ^B
		Sacramento - Keswick	7,500
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	150
		Trinity – Lewiston	2,000 ^C
Reservoir Storage (in TAF)			
San Luis (SWP)	824	San Luis (CVP)	337
Oroville	1,633	Shasta	2,517
New Melones	465	Folsom	558
Delta Operations			
DCC	Closed ^D	Sacramento River at Freeport (cfs)	7,664
Outflow Index (cfs)	~5,900	San Joaquin River at Vernalis (cfs)	467
E:I	8.4% (3-day avg.)	X2	> 81 km

^A The SWP is pumping for the CVP from 5/19 to ~5/27, due to a maintenance outage at the CVP. For 5/19, 200 cfs is for the SWP and 400 cfs is for the CVP. From 5/20 to ~5/27 the SWP will pump 800 cfs, where 400 cfs will be for the SWP and 400 cfs will be for the CVP.

^B Will be increased to 1,500 cfs tomorrow for salinity management in the Delta.

^C Will be decreased to 450 cfs by the end of June.

^D Will be opened on 5/22 and closed on 5/26 for the holiday weekend.

Salinity management is currently controlling exports. DWR reported that the DCC opening last week did prevent worsening of water quality in the interior Delta.

OMR values as of 5/16/15:

	USGS gauges (cfs)	Index (cfs)
5-day avg.	-1,535	-1,295
14-day avg.	-1,274	-1,170

Agenda Item 4.

Smelt Working Group (SWG)

Draft meeting summary from the 5/18/15 SWG meeting:

The Working Group reviewed the recent survey data, current salvage, and Delta conditions. Members maintained the same advice as last week advice, indicating a low to medium risk of entrainment for the OMR flow range of -1,250 to -2,000 cfs.

The Working Group is following guidance for entrainment protections from both Action 2 (adult Delta Smelt) and Action 3 (juvenile Delta Smelt).

The Working Group agreed that given their present distribution, existing conditions were sufficient to protect longfin smelt from entrainment in the southern Delta.

The Working Group will continue to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions and will meet again Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 10 am.

Agenda Item 5.

Fish Monitoring: The following table presents fish monitoring data. Unless otherwise noted, reported sizes are fork length. See also:

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

Location	Chippis Is. Midwater Trawl	Mokelumne RSTs ^A	Sacramento Trawl ^B	Beach Seines ^B	Lower American RST	Knights Landing RST ^C	Tisdale RST ^D	GCID RST	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl
Sample Date	5/10-5/16	5/6-5/12	5/10-5/16	5/10-5/16	5/11-5/15	5/11-5/18	5/11-5/18	5/12-5/18	5/11-5/17
Total Catch	93	13,298	7	568	38	1	2	82	4
FR Chinook	69 (59mm-93mm)	13,298	5 (68m-86mm)	1 (61mm)	38	1	2	80	
WR Chinook									
SR Chinook	6 (95mm-99mm)			1 (99mm)				1	
LFR Chinook								1	
Ad-Clipped Chinook	18 (75mm-99mm)		2 (82mm, 95mm)						
Delta Smelt									
Splittail				566 (20mm-57mm)					
Longfin Smelt									
Steelhead (ad-clip)		1							1 ^E
Steelhead (wild)		8							3 (210mm-232mm)
Green Sturgeon									
Flows (avg. cfs)						3,904	4,572	898	
W. Temp. (avg. °F)						67	64	59	
Turbidity (avg. NTU)						12	15	5.13	

^A Data from Mokelumne River Fisheries Monitoring Program of the East Bay M.U.D.; Traps are located at river mile 54 and 38.

^B These locations were sampled daily from 5/11/15 to 5/16/15 according to the monitoring requirements under the DCC Trigger Matrix for drought-related DCC operations.

^C Sampling period was from 5/11 at 1:30pm to 5/18 at 12:00pm.

^D Sampling period was from 5/11 at 8:00am to 5/18 at 9:00am.

^E The 1 ad-clipped steelhead had visible sutures and was acoustic-tagged.

Fish Salvage³:

Fujimura (DFW) provided the following summaries of salvage and loss at the SWP and CVP fish collection facilities. The figures were generated from data on CDFW's salvage monitoring web-page: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/SalvageExportCalendar.aspx>.

Preliminary salvage results for yesterday (5/18/15) indicate that the CVP salvaged four non-clipped juvenile Chinook salmon in the spring-run size range. No other listed fish species were observed on 5/18/15 in salvage collections from the CVP and SWP.

³Salvage data reported in this section represent the total estimated and expanded salvage based on the number of fish observed at the fish collection facility. For example, if one steelhead is observed in the typical ½-hour sampling period within a 2-hour operation period, the single steelhead is expanded to a salvage of four.

DOSS Weekly Salvage Update
Reporting Period: May 11-17, 2015
 Prepared by Bob Fujimura on May 18, 2015 19:30
 Preliminary Results -Subject to Revision

Criteria	11-May	12-May	13-May	14-May	15-May	16-May	17-May	Trend	
Loss Densities									
Wild older juvenile CS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	→	0.00
Wild steelhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	↘	0.00
Exports									
SWP daily export	364	628	637	437	546	546	546	↗	529
CVP daily export	478	1,123	478	1,227	375	1,234	354	↘	753
SWP reduced counts	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	→	0%
CVP reduced counts	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	→	0%

Loss Density = fish lost/TAF; water export = AF; Trend = compared to previous week; wild = adipose fin present
 Loss = estimated number of fish lost at the CVP and SWP Delta export facilities based on estimated salvage (see below)
 Reduced counts = percentage of time that routine salvage sample time were less than 30 min per 2 hours of salvage and export operations
 Yellow highlighted dates indicate TFCF salvage outage occurred
 NS = not sampled

Chinook Salmon Weekly/Season Salvage and Loss
 Combined salvage and loss for both CVP and SWP fish facilities
 Race determined by size at date of capture; hatchery = adipose fin missing;

Category	Weekly Total			Season Total	
	Salvage	Loss	Trend	Salvage	Loss
Wild					
Winter Run	0	0	→	53	106
Spring Run	0	0	↘	46	66
Late Fall Run	0	0	→	6	26
Fall Run	0	0	→	16	26
Unclassified	0	0	→	24	NC
Total	0	0		145	225
Hatchery					
Winter Run	0	0	→	62	214
Spring Run	0	0	→	8	7
Late Fall Run	0	0	→	136	340
Fall Run	0	0	→	41	180
Unclassified	0	0	→	12	NC
Total	0	0		259	741

Trend = weekly loss per race; Salvage = estimated number of fish collected by the CVP and SWP fish protective facilities per unit of time
 NC = can not be calculated

Steelhead Weekly/Season Salvage and Loss
 Combined salvage and loss for both CVP and SWP fish facilities

Category	Weekly Total			Season Total	
	Salvage	Loss	Trend	Salvage	Loss
Wild	0	0	↘	43	157
Hatchery	0	0	→	523	1,841
Total	0	0		566	1,998

State Water Project loss = salvage x 4.33; Central Valley Project loss = salvage x 0.68

Figure 1. DOSS weekly salvage update for the reporting period 5/11/15-5/17/15.

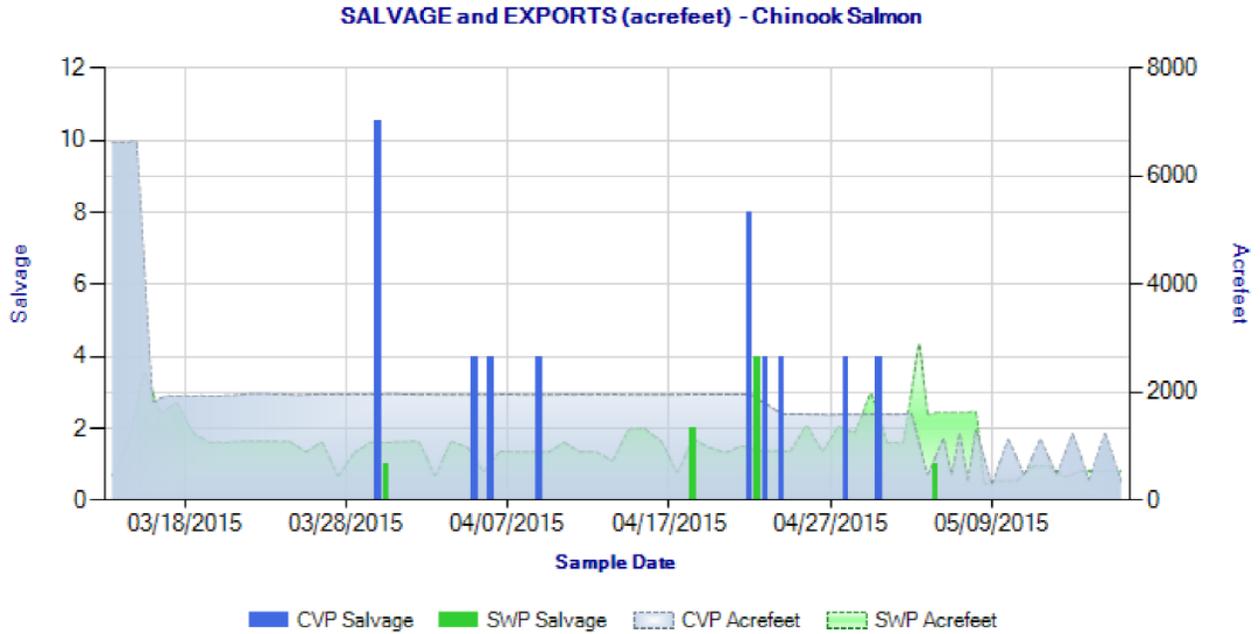


Figure 2. Daily salvage of Chinook salmon (all races) and water exports from the state and federal fish salvage facilities during 3/14/15 through 5/17/15.

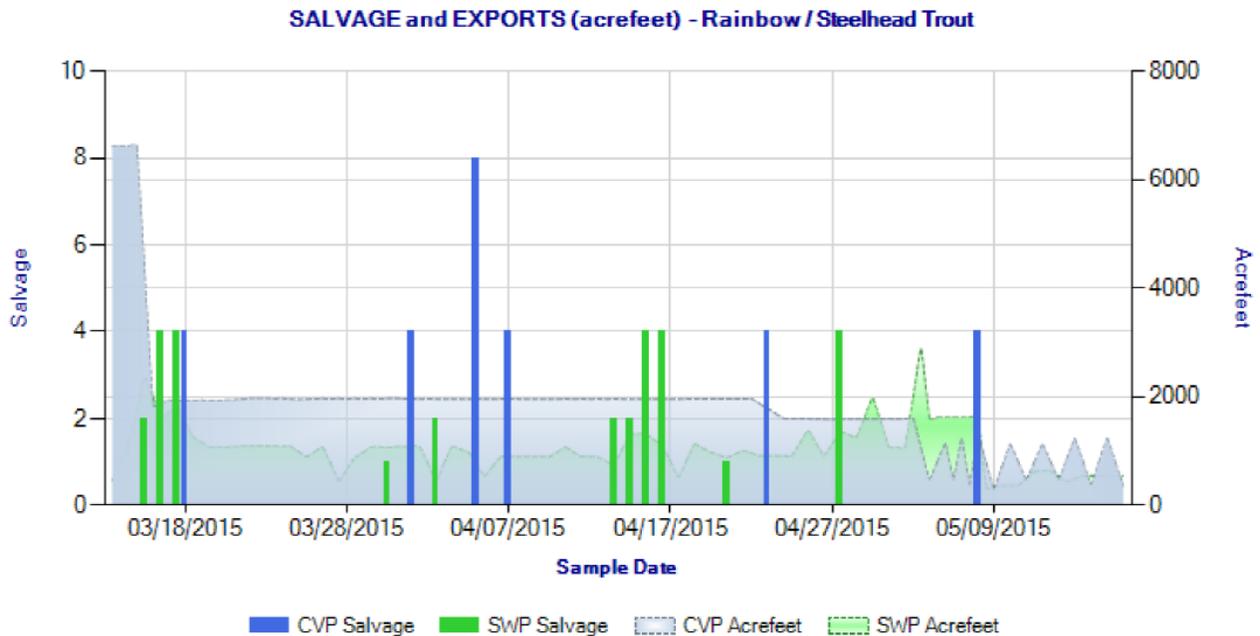


Figure 3. Daily salvage of steelhead and water exports from the state and federal fish salvage facilities during 3/14/15 through 5/17/15.

Islam (DWR) provided the following summary of coded-wire-tag recoveries at the SWP and CVP fish collection facilities.

CONFIRMED HATCHERY (ADIPOSE-FIN CLIPPED) CHINOOK SALMON LOSS AT THE SWP & CVP DELTA FISH FACILITIES, 2014/2015

Release Date	CWT Race	Hatchery	Release Site	Release Type	Confirmed Loss	Number Released ¹	Total Entering Delta	% Loss of Number Released ²	% Loss of Total Entering Delta ³	First Concern Level	Second Concern Level	Date of First Loss ⁴	Date of Last Loss ⁴
12/1/2014	LF	Coleman NFH	Battle Creek	Production	574.59	853,100	n/a	0.067	n/a	n/a	n/a	12/12/2014	1/16/2015
12/4/2014	LF	Coleman NFH	Battle Creek	Spring Surrogate	34.98	77,000	n/a	0.045	n/a	0.5%	1.0%	12/25/2014	12/29/2014
12/18/2014	LF	Coleman NFH	Battle Creek	Spring Surrogate	45.42	78,000	n/a	0.058	n/a	0.5%	1.0%	1/1/2015	1/17/2015
2/5/2015	LF	Coleman NFH	Battle Creek	Spring Surrogate	0.00	83,100	n/a	0.000	n/a	0.5%	1.0%	*	*
2/4 - 2/6/2015	W	Livingstone NFH	Sacramento River	Production	8.40	612,056	188,500	0.001	0.00004	0.5%	1.0%	2/25/2015	2/25/2015
3/25-3/31/2015	F	Coleman NFH	Rio Vista net pens	Production	3.72	942,800	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.5%	1.0%	2/23/2015	2/23/2015
4/2-4/3/2015	F	Coleman NFH	Rio Vista net pens	Production	0.00	109,500	n/a	0.000	n/a	0.5%	1.0%	*	*
4/10-4/19/2015	F	Coleman NFH	Rio Vista net pens	Production	0.00	1,517,900	n/a	0.000	n/a	0.5%	1.0%	*	*
4/18-4/19/2015	F	Coleman NFH	Rio Vista net pens	Production	0.00	207,350	n/a	0.000	n/a	0.5%	1.0%	*	*

UNCONFIRMED HATCHERY (ADIPOSE-FIN CLIPPED) CHINOOK SALMON LOSS AT THE SWP & CVP DELTA FISH FACILITIES, 2014/2015

Facility	Unknown CWT Loss ⁵	Unknown Hatchery Loss ⁷	Acoustic Tag Loss ⁸	Number of Unassigned CWTs ⁹
SWP	18.01	0.00	17.00	0
CVP	26.62	0.00	0.00	0
TOTAL	44.63	0.00	17.00	0

¹SWP and CVP adipose-fin clipped Chinook lost from 10/1/2014 through 5/17/2015.

²Number released with the adipose-fin clipped and a coded-wire tag (CWT).

³% Loss of Number Released = (Confirmed Loss/Number Released)*100.

⁴% Loss of Total Entering Delta = (Confirmed Loss/Total Entering Delta)*100.

⁵Date of first and last loss accounts for all CWT loss even those from special studies where salvage and loss=0.

⁶Adipose-fin clipped Chinook was observed during fish count, but tag code could not be determined (e.g., damaged tag, lost tag, no tag, or Chinook released).

⁷Adipose-fin clipped Chinook was collected during fish count and has not been processed yet.

⁸CWT has been read, but hatchery release information not yet available.

⁹Adipose-fin clipped Chinook released due to presence of sutures.

¹⁰CWT cannot currently be assigned to a salvage record with certainty since the CWT was lost and then found. CWT may be assigned to a salvage record if new information is available.

¹¹Chinook outside of the length-at-date criteria (Delta model) are not reported.

¹²Information not yet available.

DWR-DES Revised 5/18/2015

Preliminary data from DFW, DWR, FWS, and Reclamation; subject to revision.

DOSS Estimates of Fish Distribution

DOSS estimates of the current distribution of listed Chinook and steelhead, as a percentage of the population, are based on recent monitoring data and historical migration timing patterns. The table below reflects current distribution.

Location	Yet to Enter Delta (Upstream of Knights Landing)	In the Delta	Exited the Delta (Past Chipps Island)
<i>Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon (naturally produced)</i>	>99% out of Delta; Generally done migrating with the exception of a few stragglers. (Last week: same)		
<i>YOY winter-run Chinook salmon (hatchery-produced)</i>	>99% out of Delta; Generally done migrating with the exception of a few stragglers. (Last week: same)		
<i>YOY spring-run Chinook salmon^A</i>	Few stragglers (last week: same)	5% (last week: 15%)	95% (last week: 85%)
<i>Yearling spring-run Chinook salmon^B</i>	>99% out of Delta; Generally done migrating with the exception of a few stragglers. (last week: same)		
<i>Hatchery steelhead^C</i>	>99% out of Delta; Generally done migrating with the exception of a few stragglers. (Last week: >95% out of Delta)		
<i>Sacramento River steelhead (naturally- produced)</i>	Limited catch data		
<i>San Joaquin River steelhead^D</i>	Few stragglers (last week: <5%)	5% (last week: 10%)	95% (last week: 90%)

^A Chipp Island Trawl data of spring-run is difficult to interpret now that the 75% unmarked fall-run productions are likely masking the wild spring-run Chinook catch.

^B No yearling spring-run Chinook salmon have been caught in 2014 monitoring. In general, very few yearling spring-run Chinook salmon are observed because of their relatively large size and strong swimming (and associated gear avoidance) abilities.

^C Difficult to assess now that all hatchery releases are in the system (CNFH, Feather River Fish Hatchery, and Mokelumne Fish Hatchery released as usual; Nimbus Hatchery released their steelhead in the spring of 2014 because of expected unsuitable hatchery water temperatures during the summer of 2014). Percentages are intended to capture distribution of steelhead that migrate out; not those that may residualize.

^D Have observed a few juvenile steelhead in monitoring data. Distribution estimates are also based on 10 years of historical data from Mossdale Trawls (on the San Joaquin River) and RST data from Caswell Park (on the Stanislaus River), as well as on recent flow and water temperature conditions.

DOSS Feedback on Entrainment Risk

Entrainment risk of fish from the Sacramento River into the Interior Delta (same as last week except for tidal conditions):

DOSS noted that generally, there is an increased risk of entrainment into the interior Delta during spring tides, compared to during neap tides, at any OMR level. During a spring tide, tidal conditions extend further upstream and may, for example, create conditions at Georgiana Slough

(e.g., reverse flows) that are associated with routing into Georgiana Slough, a route to the interior Delta. Currently, the Delta is experiencing a spring tide.

DOSS notes that a DCC opening (planned for weekend of 5/22/15) may increase the risk of entrainment into the interior Delta for fish in the vicinity of the DCC. However, occasional DCC gate opening from 5/21 to 6/15 is allowed per both D-1641 and the NMFS BiOp's RPA Action IV.1.2, and so this opening doesn't represent any change in risk to migrating salmonids relative to typical operations.

Entrainment risk of fish in the Interior Delta into the CVP/SWP facilities (same as last week): DOSS assessed the current risk of entrainment for listed salmonids. For listed salmonids in the Delta, the current risk of entrainment for each OMR flow range was characterized as follows:

- -1,200 to -2,000 cfs has a medium risk of entrainment
- -2,000 to -3,500 cfs has a medium to high risk of entrainment
- -3,500 to -5,000 cfs has a high risk of entrainment

DOSS notes that the shift in CVP pumping to the SWP facility may mean greater facility loss, since the SWP is less efficient at salvaging fish.

Agenda Item 6.

DOSS Advice to WOMT and NMFS: None.

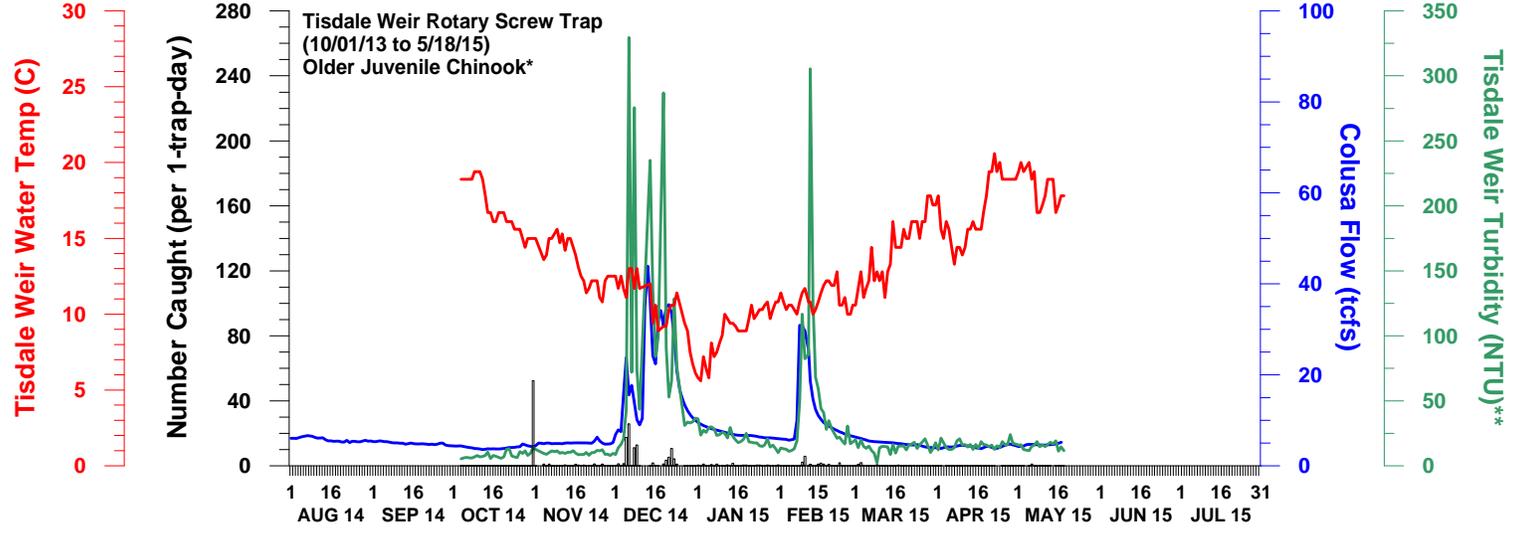
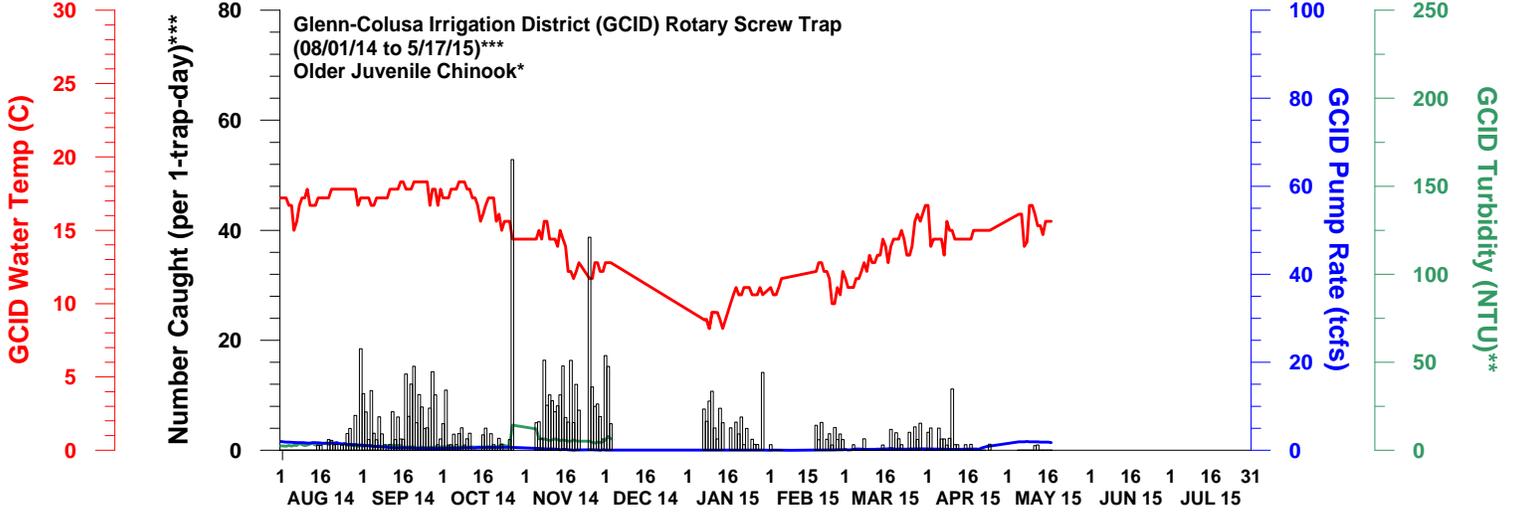
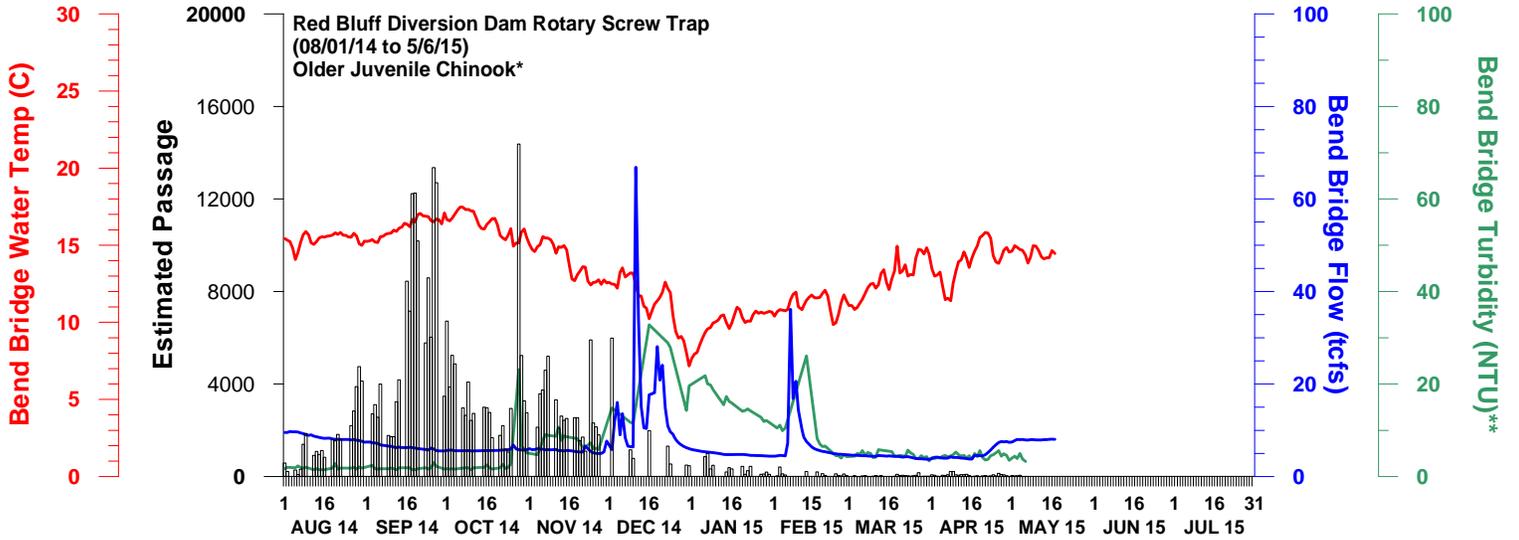
Agenda Item 7.

Next Meeting: The next DOSS conference call will be on 5/26/15 at 9am.

The following graphs were provided by DWR for Chinook salmon and steelhead observed at monitoring locations in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and Delta. For additional graphs, please visit the DWR website at:

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

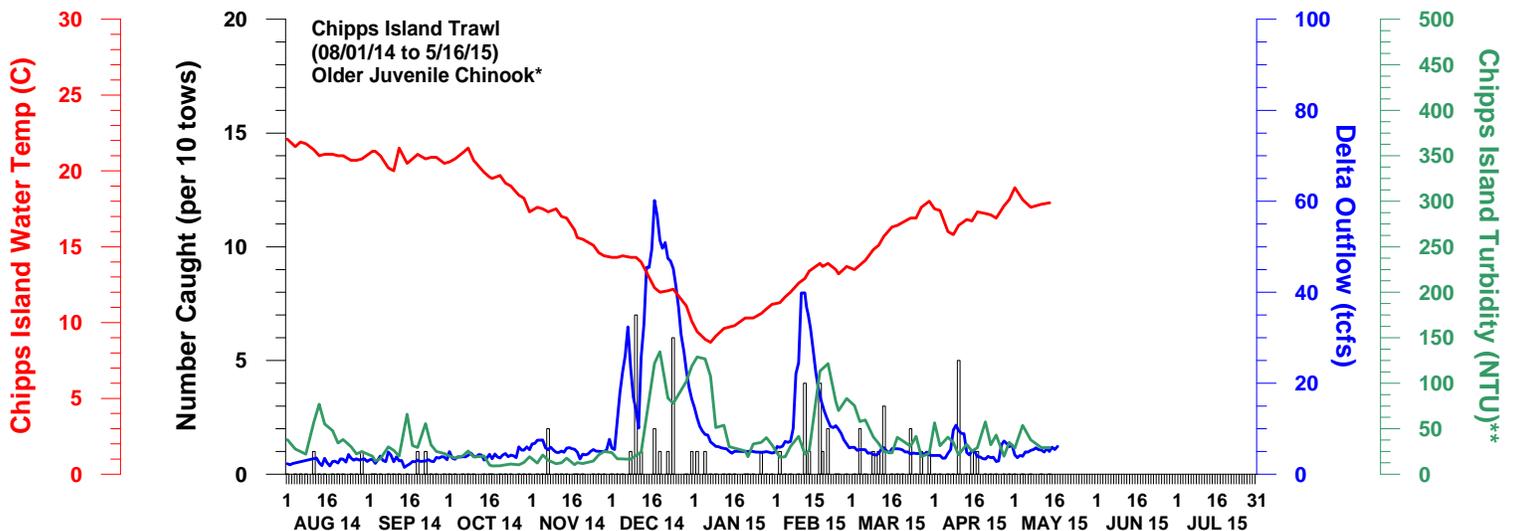
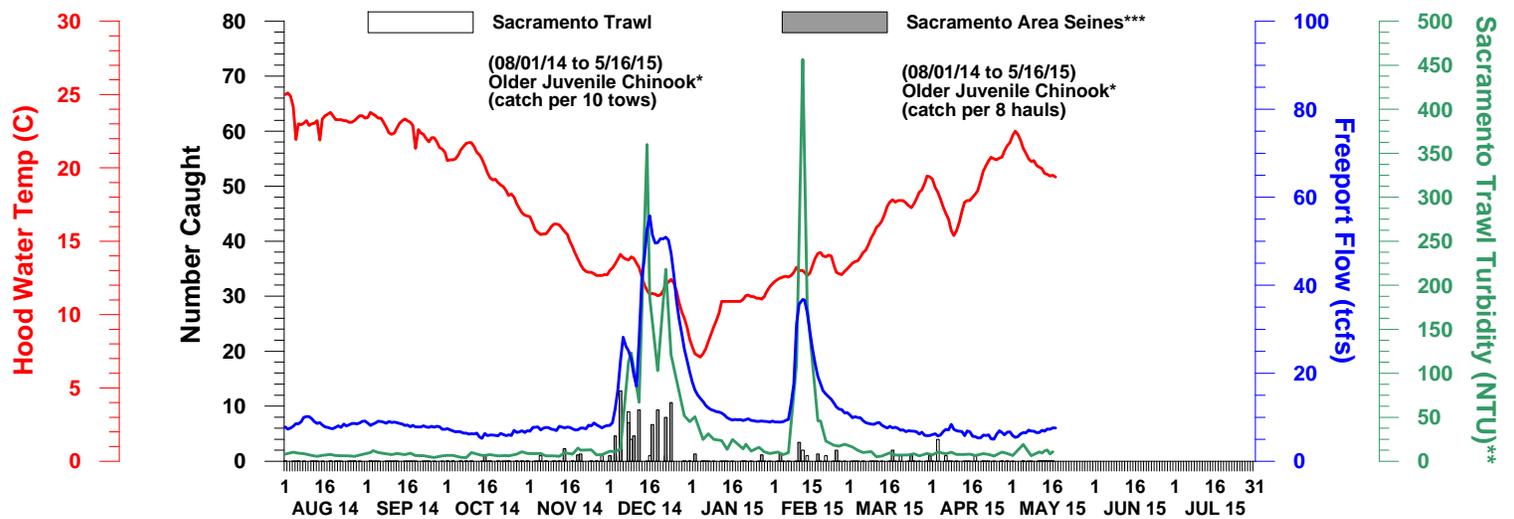
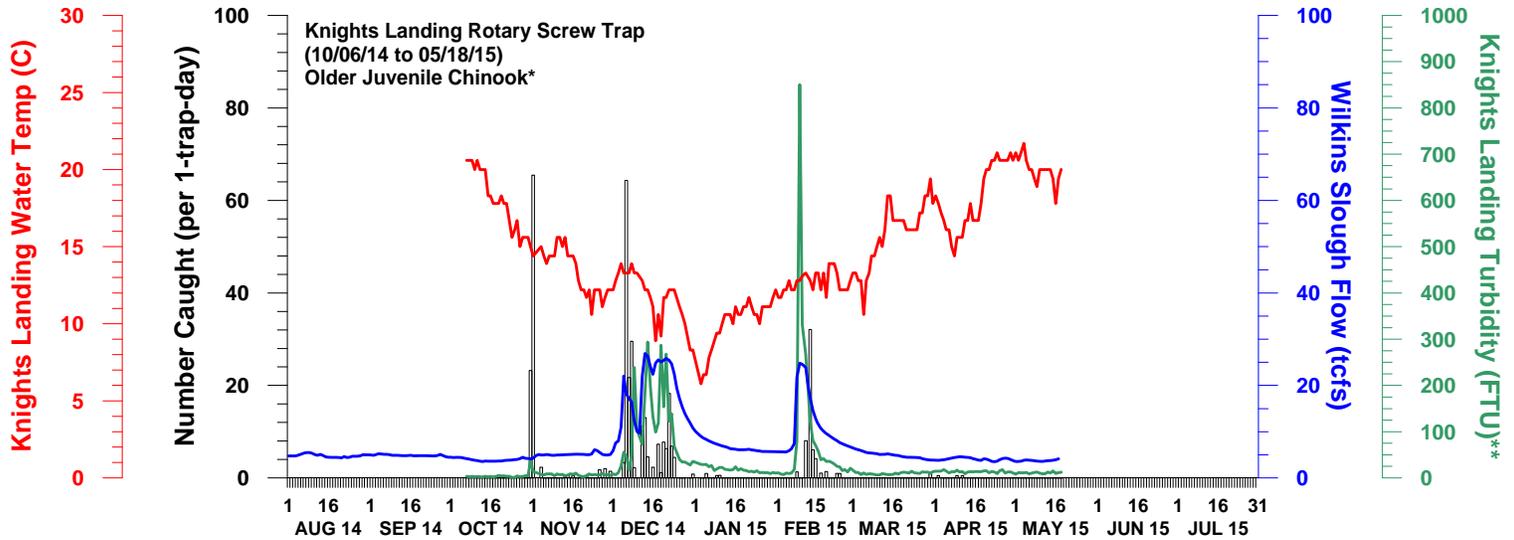
NUMBER OF UNMARKED OLDER JUVENILE CHINOOK MEASURED IN THE SACRAMENTO RIVER



DWR-DES 18 MAY 2015
 Preliminary data from DFW, FWS, GCID, and CDEC; subject to revision.

*Older juvenile Chinook defined as all Chinook greater than or equal to the minimum winter run length-at-date criteria and less than the maximum size included in the length-at-date criteria (Frank Fisher model) for which a race is assigned on a given sampling date.
 **Turbidity is a discrete measurement and is not measured continuously. Therefore, data are interpolated on days when turbidity was not measured unless data are missing for more than five days.
 ***Trap was pulled on 10/28/14 due to extremely turbid conditions, heavy debris, and high number of listed winter run Chinook and has resumed since 11/5/14. Trap was not in operation on 12/3/14-1/6/15, 2/5/15-2/16/15, and 4/25/15-5/4/15 due to various reasons.

NUMBER OF UNMARKED OLDER JUVENILE CHINOOK MEASURED IN THE LOWER SACRAMENTO RIVER AND CHIPPS ISLAND



DWR-DES 18 MAY 2015

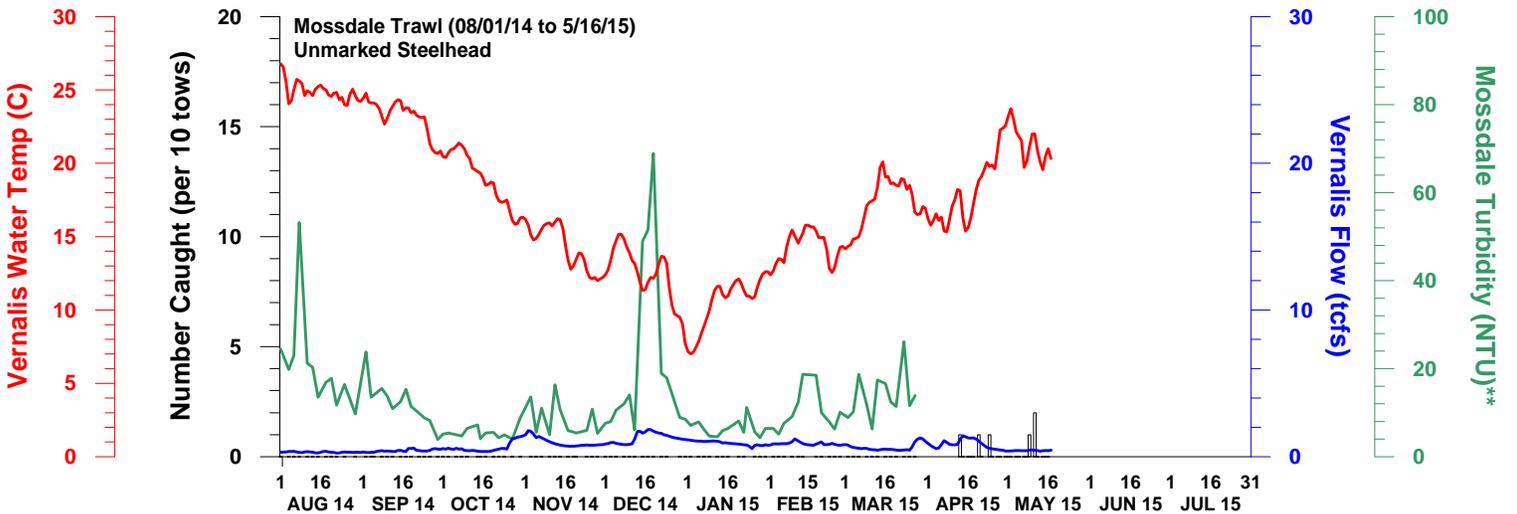
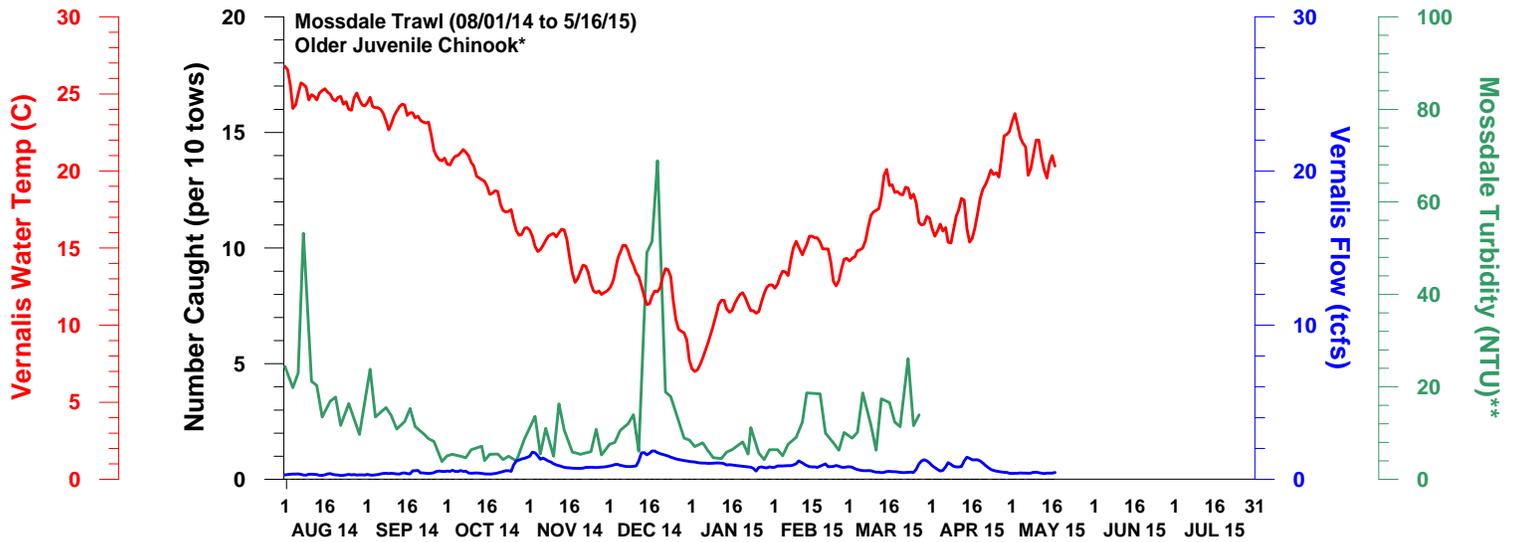
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***Sacramento area seine route consists of the following seine sites: Verona, Elkhorn, Sand Cove, Discovery Park, American River, Miller Park, Sherwood Harbor, and Garcia Bend. Bars are stacked if Chinook caught from the trawl and seines are from the same day.

NUMBER OF UNMARKED OLDER JUVENILE CHINOOK AND STEELHEAD MEASURED IN THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER

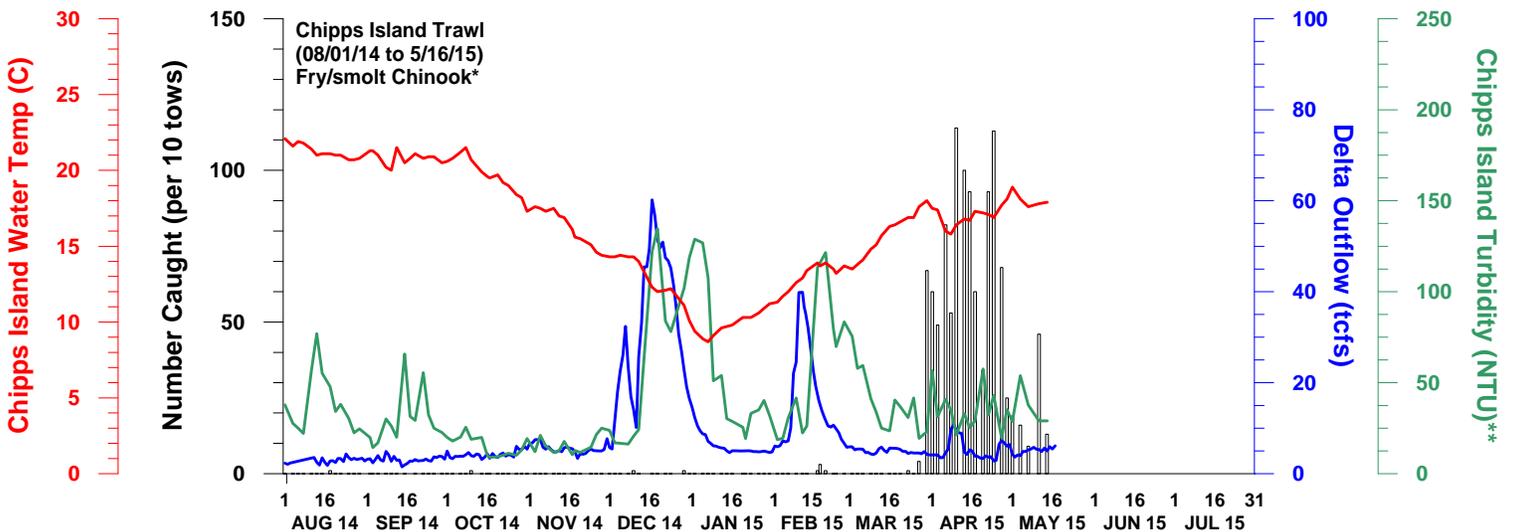
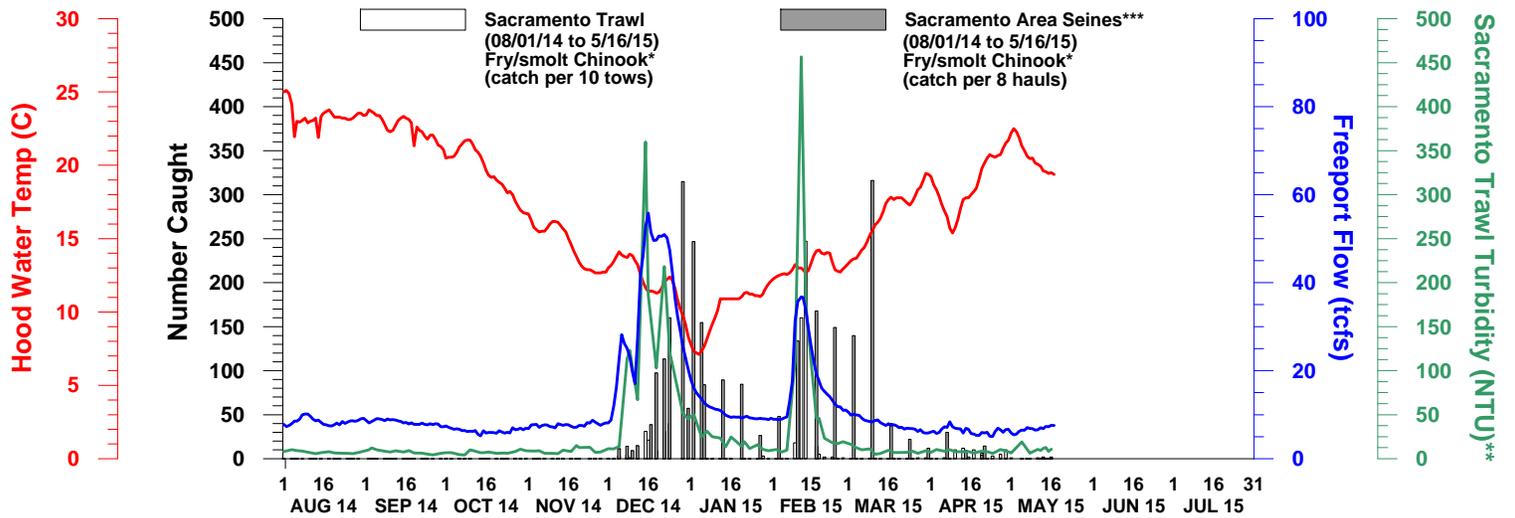
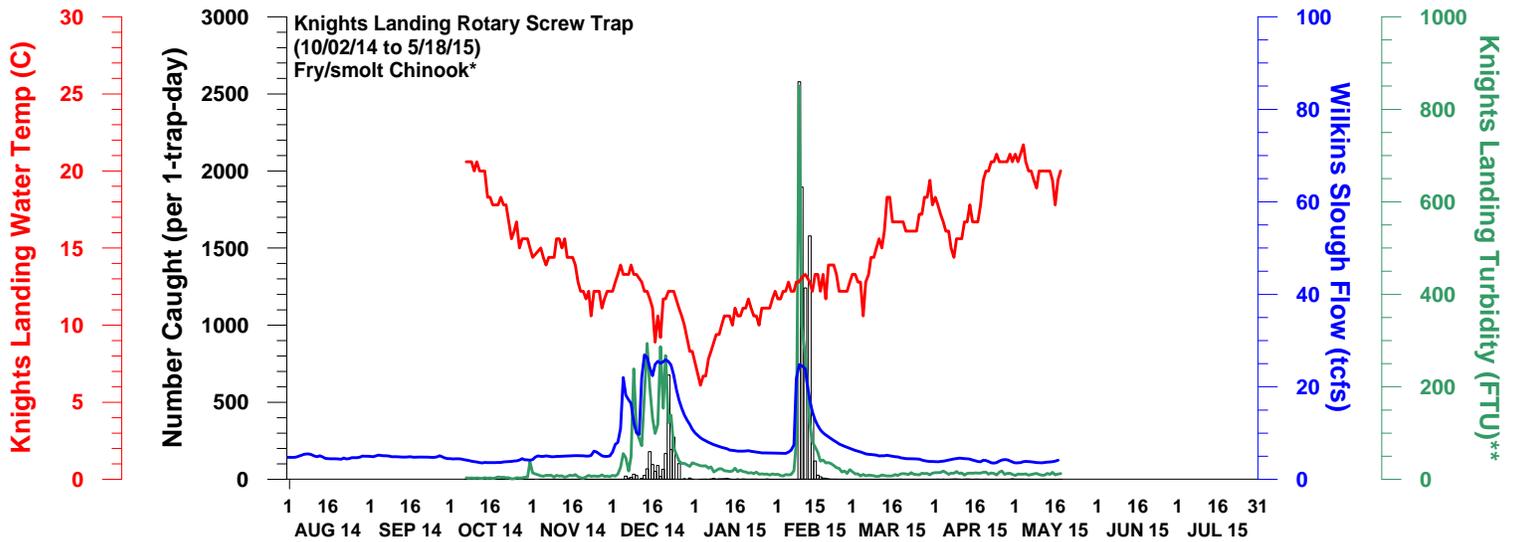


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Preliminary data from FWS and CDEC; subject to revision.

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NUMBER OF UNMARKED FRY/SMOLT CHINOOK MEASURED IN THE LOWER SACRAMENTO RIVER AND CHIPPS ISLAND



DWR-DES 18 MAY 2015

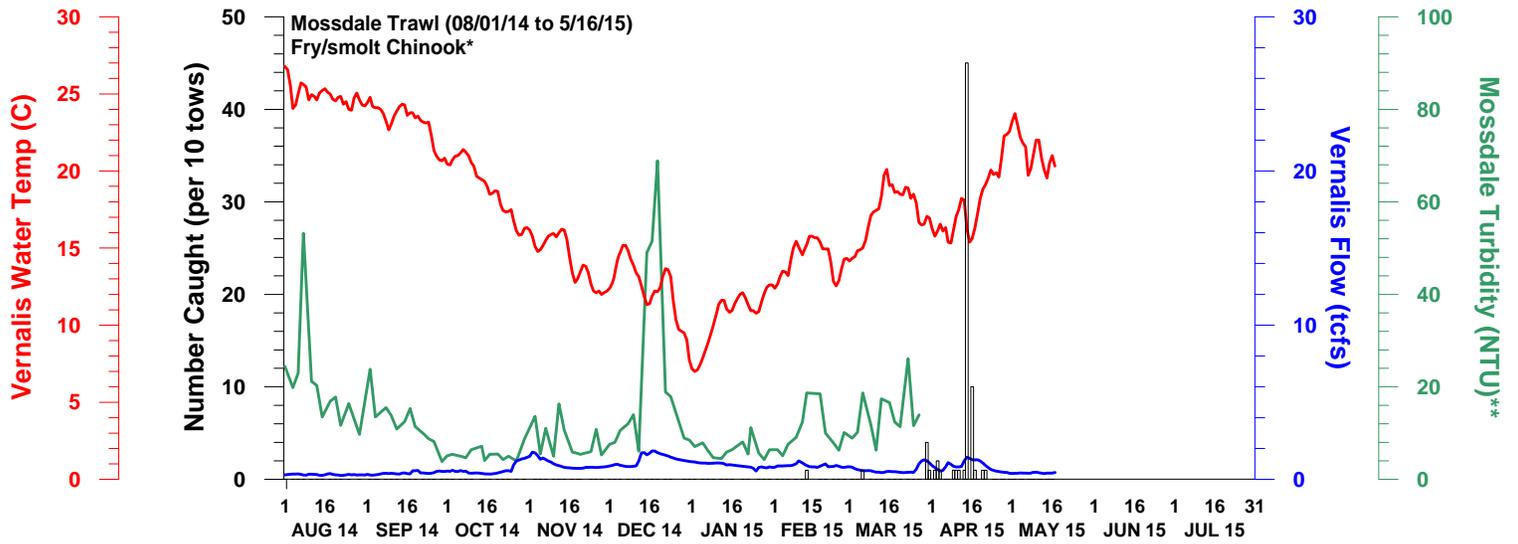
Preliminary data from DFW, FWS, and CDEC; subject to revision.

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NUMBER OF UNMARKED FRY/SMOLT CHINOOK MEASURED IN THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER



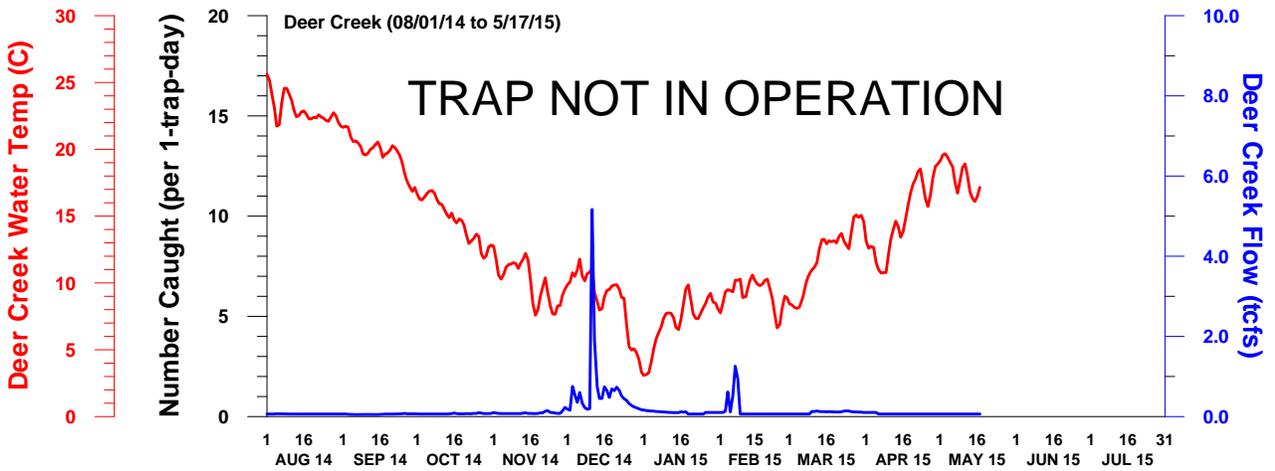
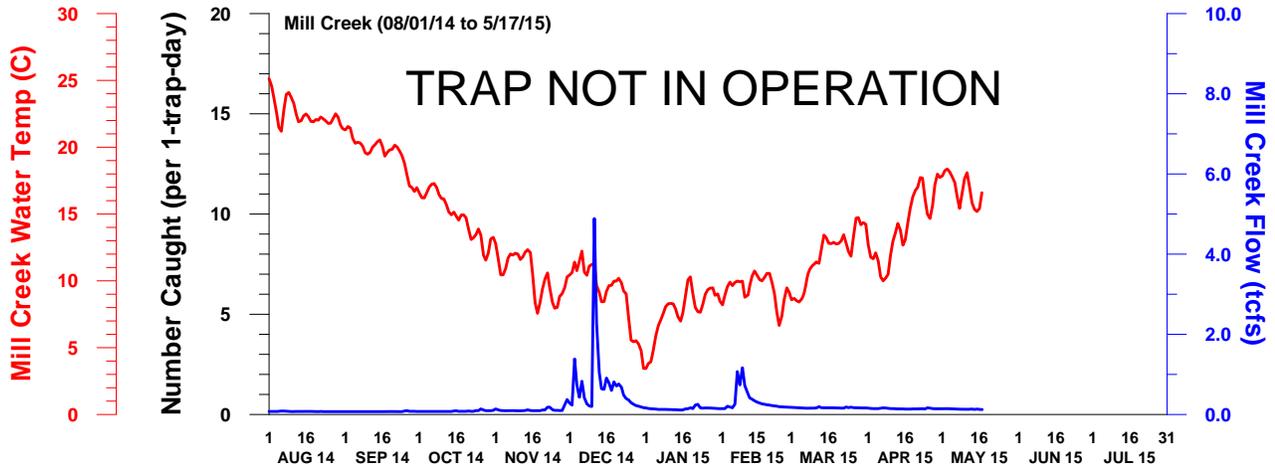
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WATER TEMPERATURE AND FLOW MEASURED AT MILL AND DEER CREEK



Data Acquisition:

All data are preliminary and subject to revision.

The estimated passage data for the Red Bluff Diversion Dam were obtained directly from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Red Bluff Fish and Wildlife Office (http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly_final.html).

The catch data for Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) were obtained directly from GCID.

The catch data for Tisdale Weir and Knights Landing were obtained directly from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)¹, North Central Region.

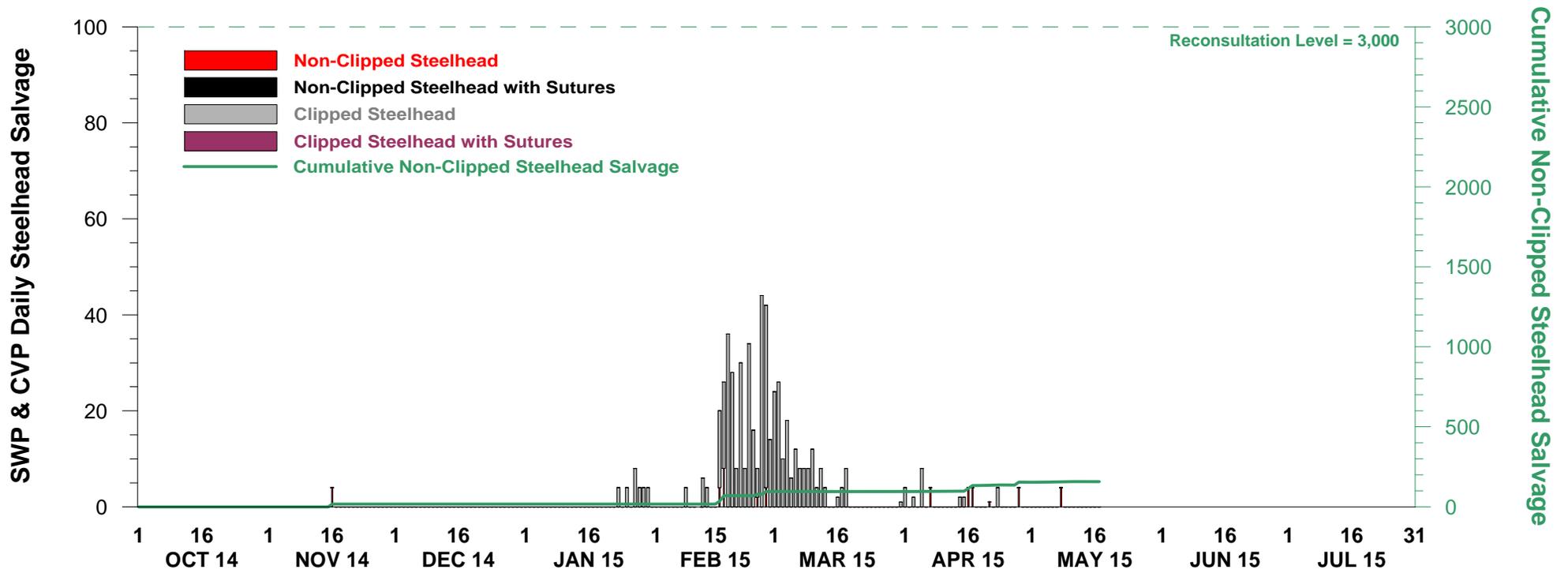
Sacramento River Trawl, Sacramento Area Beach Seine, and Chipps Island Trawl data were obtained directly from FWS, Stockton Fish and Wildlife Office (<http://www.fws.gov/stockton/ifmp/>).

Mossdale Trawl data were either obtained directly from FWS, Stockton Fish and Wildlife Office or from DFW (Region 4).

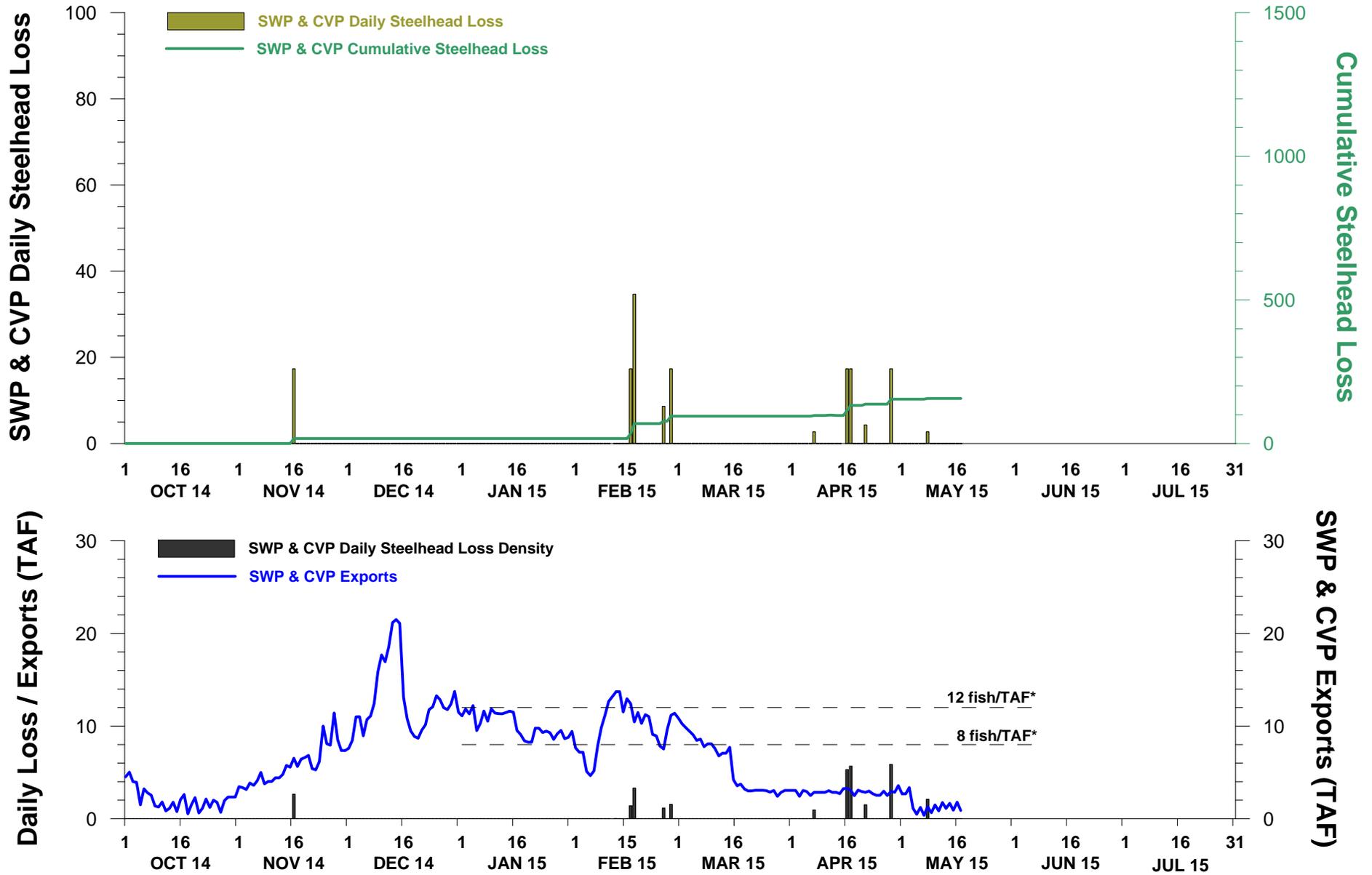
The hydrology data were either downloaded from the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) (<http://cdec.water.ca.gov>) or obtained directly from the California Department of Water Resources, Operations Control Office.

¹ Formerly known as the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

STEELHEAD SALVAGE AT THE DELTA FISH FACILITIES 01 OCT 2014 THROUGH 17 MAY 2015



NON-CLIPPED STEELHEAD LOSS AT THE DELTA FISH FACILITIES 01 OCT 2014 THROUGH 17 MAY 2015



DWR-DES 18 MAY 2015

Preliminary data from DFW; subject to revision.

*Used to roughly estimate whether the daily loss is greater than 8 fish/TAF multiplied by the volume exported in TAF or 12 fish/TAF multiplied by the volume exported in TAF.