

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group
Conference call: 10/07/2014 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: Mike Ford, Kevin Reece, Rhiannon Mulligan, Farida Islam, Elaine Jeu, Loi Tran, Dan Yamanaka

FWS: Craig Anderson, Roger Guinee, Leigh Bartoo

NMFS: Barb Byrne, Jeff Stuart, Meiling Roddam

USBR: Russ Yaworsky

DFW: Bob Fujimura, Krystal Acierto, Duane Linander, Ken Kundargi

SWRCB: Matt Holland

Agenda Items

1. Agenda review and introductions
2. Announcements:
 - LOBO Annual Review is November 6th and 7th
3. Fish Monitoring
4. Current Operations
5. Temporary Urgency Change Petition related to October Vernalis flows per D-1641
6. Update on SWP and CVP fish collection facilities
7. Smelt Working group
8. RPA Implementation Review and DOSS Advice

Agenda Item 2.

2014 LOBO Annual Review:

Dates: 11/6/14 (all day) & 11/7/14 (afternoon)

Topics:

- Modified Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate Opening Criteria per Attachment G in the Drought Operations Plan, including opportunities and constraints also assessed by DOSS
- Proposed modifications to the Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE) calculation and use/application of data from acoustically-tagged Chinook Salmon releases
- Proposal for Calculating Cumulative Salvage Index Values Used For Estimating Take Likely to Occur under the USFWS Old and Middle River Flow RPA for Adult Delta Smelt

Byrne (NMFS) will send DOSS the link to the the Delta Science Program website for the 2014 LOBO Annual Review once the link available.

Agenda Item 3.

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	Sacramento Trawls	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl	GCID	Knights Landing RST	Tisdale RST	Beach Seines
Sample Date	10/1-3	10/1-3	10/1-3	10/1-5	Not yet sampling	10/3-5	10/1-3
Total Catch	0	0	0			0	0
FR							
WR				20			
SR							
LFR							
Ad-Clipped Chinook							
DS							
Splittail							
Longfin							
SH (ad-clip)							
SH (wild)							
W. Temp. (avg. °F)	20.7	20.1	21.4	63		66	
Flows (avg. cfs)						4,250	
Turbidity (avg. NTU)	18.9	6.8	5.3	1.90		6.0	
WR/LFR Avg. CPUE							
FR/SR Avg. CPUE							

CPUE = catch per unit of effort

GCID

Fork length for juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon from sample dates 10/1-5 range from 34 mm to 45 mm.

Agenda Item 4.

Current Operations (10/07/2014)

SWP		CVP	
Exports (cfs)			
Clifton Court Forebay	800 on 10/07, expected to drop to 300 on 10/08	Jones Pumping Plant	800 on 10/07 ¹
Reservoir Releases (cfs)			
Feather - Oroville	1,500	American - Nimbus	1,050
		Sacramento - Keswick	5,000
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	200
Reservoir Storage (in TAF)			
San Luis (SWP)	220	San Luis (CVP)	241
Oroville	1,068	Shasta	1,134
New Melones	518	Folsom	337

Delta Operations			
DCC	Open	Sacramento River at Freeport (cfs)	6,700
Outflow Index (cfs)	3,800	San Joaquin River (cfs) at Vernalis	570
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	3,800	Rio Vista	2,429
X2 (km)	>81	E/I (% , 14-day avg)	19.2

¹ Beginning Thursday, 10/9/14, CVP pumping will be cycling -- on (~800 cfs) for 2 days, off for 1 day -- due to water quality issues

Water quality concerns and delta outflow are currently controlling export operations. DWR reported that the current minimum monthly average delta outflow of 2,000 cfs is modified per the SWRCB order related to the Drought Operations Plan for operations through November 15th; the unmodified D-1641 standard in a Critical year is for delta outflow during October to meet a monthly average of 3,000 cfs.

Agenda Item 5.

Vernalis Flow

Reclamation petitioned the SWRCB for a modification to the magnitude and timing of the San Joaquin River flow requirement to allow for a 31-day pulse flow period spanning October and November 15, 2014, with a minimum average flow of 800 cfs. The SWRCB order responding to the petition was expected soon; Holland (SWRCB) will send information when available¹. The

Agenda Item 6.

Update on SWP and CVP fish collection (and export) facilities

Update on SWP's Skinner Fish Collection Facility

- Louvers in one of the primary louver bays (#5) failed due to excessive debris loading in mid-September and that louver bay is out of commission until the damage is repaired (no repair timeline yet available).
- Based on current criteria for water velocities in the primary louver channel (1 ft/sec) and the forecasted low exports, CDFW expects that the SWP can meet the water velocity criteria and pumping needs using the remaining bays. The closure of Bay #5 could limit water exports during October if pumping increases so much that velocities in the remaining bays exceed the 1 ft/sec limit.

Update on Clifton Court Radial Gates

- No information on the status of the radial gate repair was available during the call; Ford (DWR) will check on status and report back to DOSS.

Update on CVP's Tracy Fish Collection Facility

- The Tracy Fish Collection Facility reported several outages in September for repairs or maintenance related to the newly installed Hydrolox traveling screens. Byrne (NMFS) reported that she has heard that the screens are performing well, but that the capacity of the pump initially

¹ The SWRCB issued the order shortly after the DOSS call; the link to that order was provided to DOSS and is provided here in the 10/7/14 DOSS notes for convenience:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/docs/tucp/10072014_tucp_order.pdf

installed to spray debris off the screens was not enough to clean all the screens. One of the reported outages was associated with pump replacement, so this issue may have been resolved.

Agenda Item 7.

Smelt Working Group (SWG): The group has not yet met but will most likely begin meeting in early December. Previous SWG meeting notes are available at: http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm.

Agenda Item 8.

Delta RPA Actions in effect during October:

Action IV.1.1 (Alerts that indicate the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gate operations may be triggered soon)²:

- Neither of the two alerts has been triggered since 10/1/14.

NMFS reminded DOSS that, for October and November 2013 only, NMFS approved a modification to the first component of the first alert, which allowed the use of a flow threshold (mean daily flows great than 110 cfs in Mill or Deer creeks) in lieu of a catch threshold (based on operation of the Mill and Deer creek RSTs). Just before the DOSS call, NMFS received a new request for implementation in WY 2015. Reece (DWR) explained that the proposed modification is to modify the first component of the first alert to a flow threshold of 95 cfs in Mill or Deer creeks. NMFS will provide an update on the status of that request next week.

Action IV.1.2³ (DCC gate operations):

- Since 10/1/14, none of the criteria requiring DCC gate closure have been met.

DOSS Advice to WOMT and NMFS: None.

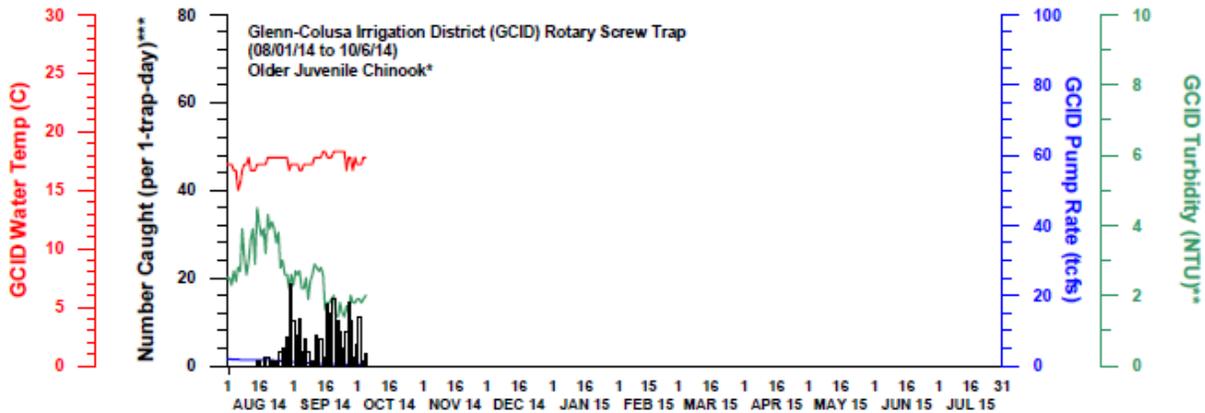
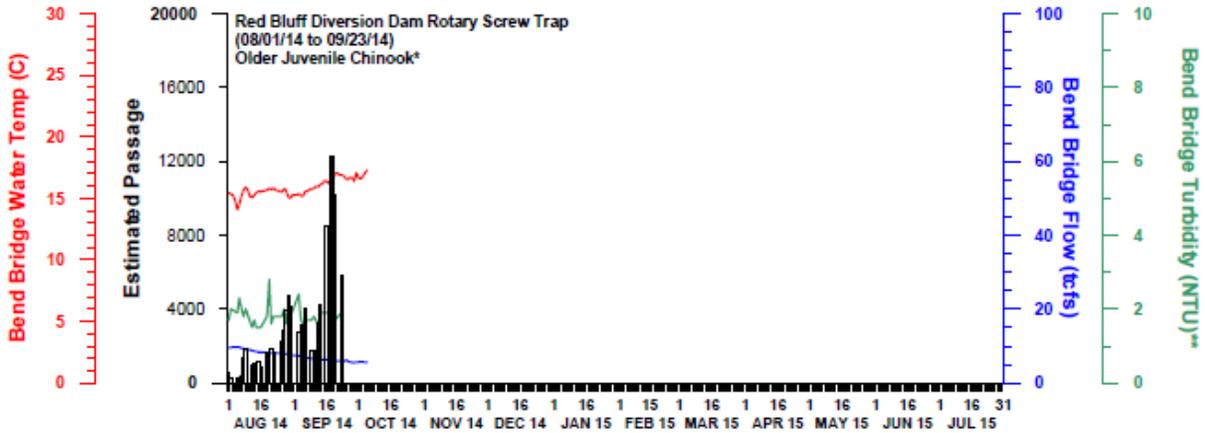
Next Meeting: The next DOSS conference call will be on 10/14/14 at 9am

² For details, see pages 60-61 in Enclosure 2 of the 2011 Amendments to the 2009 RPA document at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/Water%20Operations/Operations,%20Criteria%20and%20Plan/040711_ocap_opinion_2011_amendments.pdf

³ For details, see pages 62-66 in Enclosure 2 of the 2011 Amendments to the 2009 RPA document at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/Water%20Operations/Operations,%20Criteria%20and%20Plan/040711_ocap_opinion_2011_amendments.pdf

Below are graphs 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



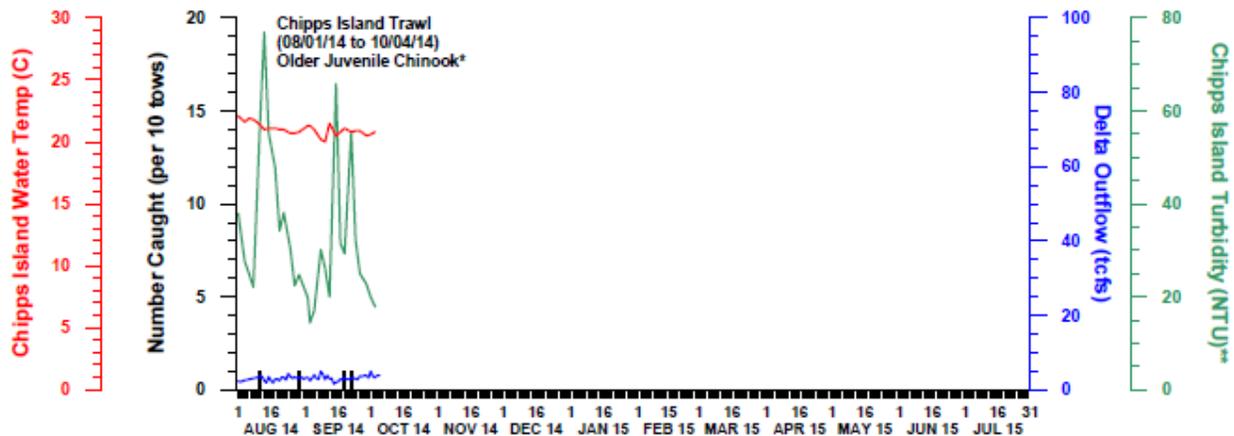
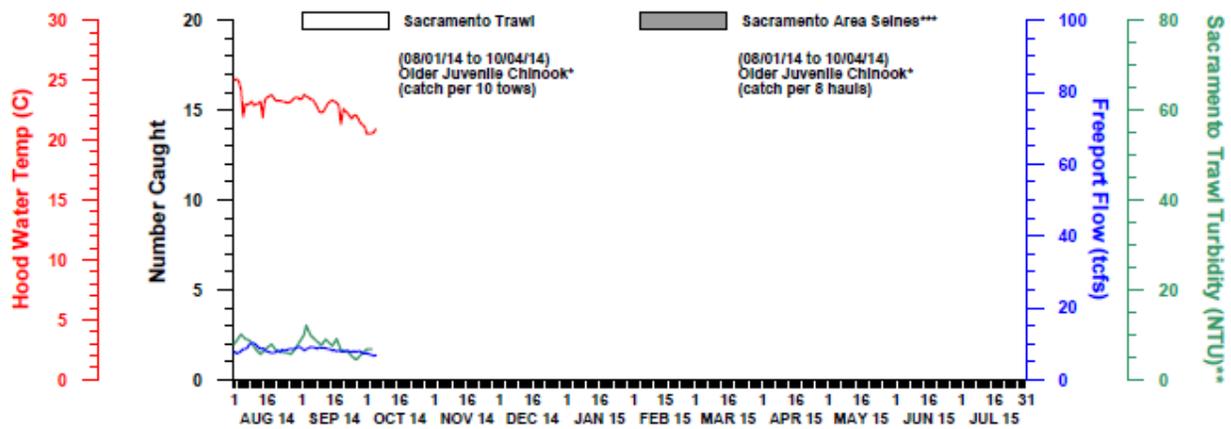
DWR-DES 6 JULY 2014

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.

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



DWR-DES 6 OCTOBER 2014

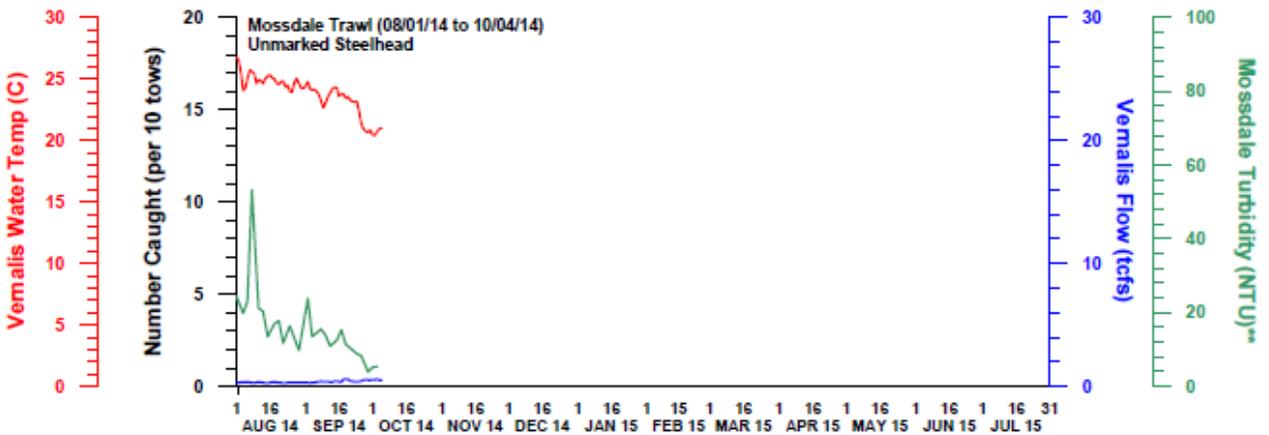
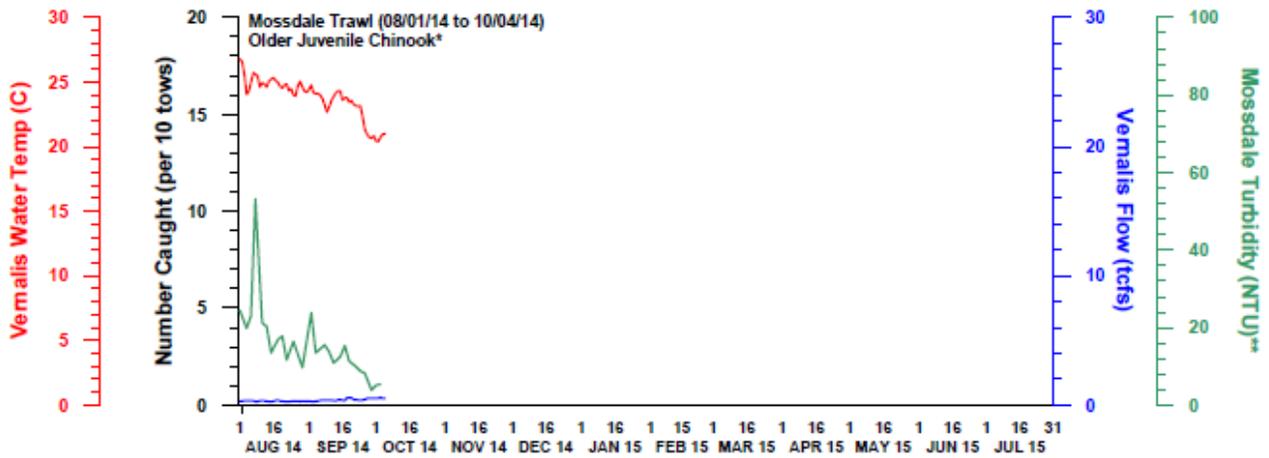
Preliminary data from DFW, FWS, and CDEC; subject to revision.

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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

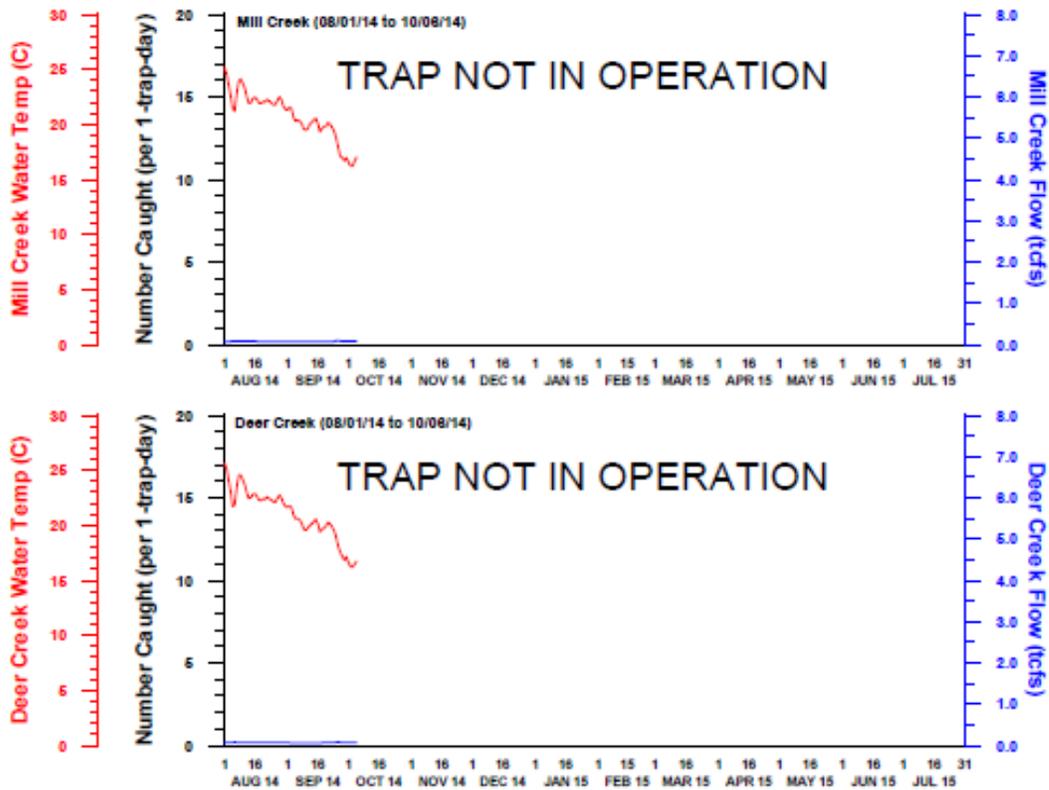


DWR-DES 6 OCTOBER 2014
Preliminary data from FWS and CDEC; subject to revision.

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WATER TEMPERATURE AND FLOW MEASURED AT MILL AND DEER CREEK



DWR-DES 6 OCTOBER 2014
Preliminary data from CDEC; subject to revision.