

**Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group**  
**Conference call: 10/10/2017 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](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/doss.html).

**CDFW:** Jason Julienne, Jerry Morinaka, Ken Kundargi, Duane Linander

**DWR:** Bryant Giorgi, Farida Islam, Mike Ford,

**EPA:**

**NMFS:** Jeff Stuart, Doug Hampton

**Reclamation:** Tom Patton, Mike Hendrick, Elissa Buttermore

**SWRCB:**

**USFWS:** Felipe Carrillo, Craig Anderson

**Agenda Items**

1. Agenda review and introductions
2. RPA Implementation review (For the DOSS Dashboard, click on the "Triggers & Indices" tab at: [www.baydeltalive.com/djfmj](http://www.baydeltalive.com/djfmj))
3. Current Operations
4. Smelt Working Group
5. Fish Monitoring: Salvage
6. Fish Monitoring: RSTs/trawls/seines
7. DOSS Estimates of Fish Distribution
8. DOSS advice
9. Check-in on DOSS Annual Report
10. Next DOSS meeting

**Agenda Item 2.**

**RPA Implementation Review**

**Delta RPA Actions affecting operations during October:**

**Action IV.1.1 (Alerts that indicate the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gate operations may be triggered soon)<sup>1</sup>:**

- Recent (10/3-10/09, unless otherwise noted) conditions for:
  - Wilkins Slough flow: ~6840-7500 cfs (range of mean daily flow)
  - Knights Landing temperature: 58.8°F average for period, range 58 to 60°F (latest temperatures reported at the rotary screw traps during trap check on 10/9)

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/Water%20Operations/Operations.%20Criteria%20and%20Plan/040711_ocap_opinion_2011_amendments.pdf). Note that in October 2014, NMFS approved a modification of the first component of the first alert to a 95 cfs mean daily flow threshold in either Mill Creek or Deer Creek in lieu of operating the Mill and Deer Creek rotary screw traps.

- Mill Creek flow : 127-130 cfs (mean daily flow)
  - Deer Creek flow was 127 cfs on 9/27, no data since then. Status of gage will be checked to see why it has been malfunctioning since 9/27 and not reporting flows.
- The first alert (triggered if either component is met) has been triggered based on Mill Creek flows >95 cfs (127-130 cfs) from 10/3 to 10/9/17, however summer baseline flows have been greater than the trigger of 95 cfs all summer long and DOSS believes no yearling spring-run Chinook salmon outmigration has been stimulated by these flows.
  - Flows at Wilkins Slough are equal to or less than trigger of 7,500 cfs, but flows have been decreasing over the past week compared to earlier in September.
  - Water temperatures at Knights Landing are above the trigger threshold of 13.5°C (56.3°F). Water temperatures must fall below the threshold to trigger the alert.
  - Both Wilkins Slough flows and Knights Landing water temperature triggers must be met to initiate second alert

**Action IV.1.2<sup>2</sup> (DCC gate operations):**

- Since 10/1/17, none of the criteria requiring DCC gate closure have been met.
- DCC gates are currently closed weekdays (from 10 a.m. on Mondays through 10 a.m. on Fridays) at the request of CDFW to minimize straying of Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon, and gates are opened on weekends for recreational boating (opening Friday and closing on Monday).
- These DCC Gate operations are expected to continue through the end of October.

**Agenda Item 3.**

**Current Operations (10/3/17)**

SWP		CVP	
<b>Exports (cfs)</b>			
Clifton Court Forebay	300	Jones Pumping Plant	4,400
<b>Reservoir Releases (cfs)</b>			
Feather - Oroville	3,000	American - Nimbus	2,500 *
		Sacramento - Keswick	8,000
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	900**
		Trinity - Lewiston	450***
<b>Reservoir Storage (in TAF)</b>			
San Luis (SWP)	969	San Luis (CVP)	707
Oroville	1,283	Shasta	3,320
New Melones	2,022	Folsom	622
<b>Delta Operations</b>			
DCC	Closed	Sacramento River at Freeport (cfs)	13,094

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/Water%20Operations/Operations,%20Criteria%20and%20Plan/040711_ocap_opinion_2011_amendments.pdf)

Outflow Index (cfs)	~10,000	San Joaquin River at Vernalis (cfs)	2,778
E:I	27.7% (3-day avg.)	X2	~77 km

\* Nimbus releases decreasing to 2,000 cfs on 10/14.

\*\* Goodwin releases decreasing through 10/13 for fall pulse flows, will ramp back up next week.

\*\*\*Trinity releases at Lewiston are expected to decrease to 300 cfs next week.

Factor controlling Delta exports:

- 10/3-10/17: Seasonal salinity management

**Agenda Item 4.**

**Smelt Working Group**

The Smelt Working Group has not yet started meeting for the 2018 water year.

**Agenda Item 5.**

**Fish Monitoring: Salvage**

Morinaka (CDFW) provided a salvage summary. No listed fish species have been observed in salvage since the start of the current water year on 10/1/17.

**Agenda Item 6.**

**Fish Monitoring:** The following table presents fish monitoring data summarized over the past week. Unless otherwise noted, reported sizes are fork length.

Location	Chippis Is. Midwater Trawl <sup>A</sup>	Sacramento Trawl <sup>A</sup>	Beach Seines <sup>A</sup>	Knights Landing RST <sup>B</sup>	Tisdale RST <sup>C</sup>	GCID RST <sup>D</sup>	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl <sup>A</sup>
Sample Date				10/3-10/9	10/3-10/9		
Chinook							
FR Chinook							
SR Chinook							
WR Chinook				8	1		
LFR Chinook							
Ad-Clipped Chinook							
Steelhead (ad-clip)							
Steelhead (wild)							
Green Sturgeon							
Flows (avg. cfs)				7,074	7,246		
W. Temp. (avg. °F)				58.8	59.2		

<b>Turbidity (avg. NTU)</b>				7.6	13.3		
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<sup>A</sup> Data not available during call due to federal holiday on Monday, 10/9. Data will be forwarded out to DOSS once available.

<sup>B</sup> Knights Landing RST sampling period was from 10/2 at 10:30 am to 10/9 at 11:00 am.

<sup>C</sup> Tisdale RST sampling period was from 10/2 at 9:30 am to 10/8 at 9:30 am.

**Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD)**

Most recent USFWS biweekly report (9/10-23/17) for preliminary estimates of passage by brood-year and run for unmarked juvenile Chinook salmon captured by rotary screw traps at RBDD included:

<b>Run and Species</b>	<b>Biweekly Total</b>	<b>Brood Year Total (90% CI)</b>
Winter-run Chinook (BY2017)	62,042	124,187 (92,042-156,332)

Next biweekly report expected before next DOSS call.

**Agenda Item 7.**

**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. Since sampling began on 8/24/17, through 10/9/17, 12 WR-sized Chinook and 12 older juveniles have been caught at the Knights Landing RST. Since sampling began on 8/15/17, through 10/9/17, 2 WR-sized Chinook have been caught at the Tisdale RST.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Yet to Enter Delta (Upstream of Knights Landing)</b>	<b>In the Delta</b>	<b>Exited the Delta (Past Chipps Island)</b>
<i>Wild young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon (last week)</i>	98-100%	0-2%	0%
<i>Wild young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon (this week)</i>	98-100%	0-2%	0%

**Rationale for changes in distribution**

No changes in distribution from last week.

**Agenda Item 8.**

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

**Agenda Item 9.**

No new updates on the DOSS report, expected to be completed soon.

**Agenda Item 10.**

**Next Meeting:** The next DOSS conference call will be on **10/17/17 at 9am.**