

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group
Conference call: 10/17/2017 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.

CDFW: Bob Fujimura, Jerry Morinaka, Ken Kundargi, Duane Linander

DWR: Kevin Reece, Bryant Giorgi, Farida Islam, Mike Ford

EPA:

NMFS: Jeff Stuart, Doug Hampton

Reclamation: Tom Patton, Mike Hendrick, Elissa Buttermore, Towns Burgess

SWRCB: Chris Carr

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)
3. Current Operations
4. Fish Monitoring: Salvage
5. Fish Monitoring: RSTs/trawls/seines
6. DOSS Estimates of Fish Distribution
7. DOSS advice
8. 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)¹:

- Recent (10/10-10/16, unless otherwise noted) conditions for:
 - Wilkins Slough flow: Average flow 6,598 cfs (range of mean daily flow: 6,428-6,844 cfs)
 - Knights Landing temperature: 56.67°F average for period, range 56 to 58°F (latest temperatures reported at the rotary screw traps during trap check on 10/16)
 - Mill Creek flow : 127-128 cfs (mean daily flow)

¹ 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. 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.

- Deer Creek flow was 127 cfs on 9/27, no reported data since then. Gage is recording data but is not uploading to CDEC. Repairs are being made.
- The first alert (triggered if either component is met) has been triggered based on Mill Creek flows >95 cfs (127-128 cfs) from 10/10 to 10/16/17, 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 less than trigger of 7,500 cfs; flows have been decreasing over the past week.
- 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 action.
- Both Wilkins Slough flows and Knights Landing water temperature triggers must be met to initiate second alert.

Action IV.1.2² (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.
- It is anticipated that the current DCC gate operations will continue until mid-November unless water quality issues occur, or CDFW withdraws its request for gate closures.

Agenda Item 3.

Current Operations (10/3/17)

SWP		CVP	
Exports (cfs)			
Clifton Court Forebay	300	Jones Pumping Plant	4,400
Reservoir Releases (cfs)			
Feather - Oroville	2,400	American - Nimbus	2,000 *
		Sacramento - Keswick	8,000
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	700**
		Trinity - Lewiston	300***
Reservoir Storage (in TAF)			
San Luis (SWP)	884	San Luis (CVP)	718
Oroville	1,264	Shasta	3,272
New Melones	2,019	Folsom	602
Delta Operations			
DCC	Closed	Sacramento River at Freeport (cfs)	11,600

² 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

Outflow Index (cfs)	~8,500	San Joaquin River at Vernalis (cfs)	2,560
E:I	~30% (3-day avg.)	X2	~77 km

* Nimbus releases decreased to 2,000 cfs on 10/14 holding steady, no current change orders.

** Goodwin releases decreasing through 10/20 for fall pulse flows, will ramp back up next week for final fall pulse flow.

***Trinity releases at Lewiston decreased to 300 cfs on 10/16/17, holding steady, no current change orders.

Factors controlling Delta exports:

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

Agenda Item 4.

Fish Monitoring: Salvage

Fujimura (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. One juvenile white sturgeon was observed on 10/15/17 (expanded to 4 fish salvaged). 330 mm fork length, 390 mm total length.

Agenda Item 5.

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 ^A	Sacramento Trawl ^A	Beach Seines ^A	Knights Landing RST ^B	Tisdale RST ^C	GCID RST ^D	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl ^A
Sample Date	10/11-10/13	10/11-10/13	10/10-10/13	10/11-10/16	10/9	10/10-10/15	10/10, 10/12, 10/13
Chinook	2						
FR Chinook							
SR Chinook							
WR Chinook				1	1	26	
LFR Chinook						1	
Ad-Clipped Chinook							
Steelhead (ad-clip)							
Steelhead (wild)							
Green Sturgeon							
Flows (avg. cfs)				6,535	7,032	691	
W. Temp. (avg. °F)	63.3	59.7	60.4	56.67	58	56.4	59.7

Turbidity (avg. NTU)	32.8	11.1	11.4	5.98	12.3	8.1	23.5
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^A Data reported in the 10/8-10/14 DJFMP sampling summary.

^B Knights Landing RST sampling period was from 10/10 at 10:00 am to 10/16 at 11:30 am.

^C Tisdale RST sampling period was from 10/9 at 9:30 am to 10/10 at 9:30 am.

Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD)

USFWS biweekly report (09/24-10/07/17) for preliminary estimates of passage by brood-year and run for unmarked juvenile Chinook salmon captured by rotary screw traps at RBDD included:

Run and Species	Biweekly Total	Brood Year Total (90% CI)
Winter-run Chinook (BY2017)	85,512	209,699 (158,176; 261,222)

Agenda Item 6.

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.

Location	Yet to Enter Delta (Upstream of Knights Landing)	In the Delta	Exited the Delta (Past Chipps Island)
<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>	98-99%	1-2%	0%

Rationale for changes in distribution

Slight increase in the downstream movement of fish into the Delta from last week.

Agenda Item 7.

DOSS Advice to WOMT and NMFS: None

Agenda Item 8.

Next Meeting: The next DOSS conference call will be on **10/24/17 at 9am.**