

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

05/25/10 Conference call 8:00 am

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 to salmonids and green sturgeon. DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/actions.htm>

Attendees:

Mike Ford, Carol Stroble, Andy Chu (DWR); Nick Hindman, Roger Guinee (FWS); Garwin Yip, Barbara Byrne (NMFS); Josh Israel, Thuy Washburn (USBR); Greg Wilson (SWRCB)

Agenda: fish monitoring, Delta water operations

Fish Monitoring:

Mill and Deer Creek:

(This report from Colleen Harvey Arrison, DFG, was distributed after the DOSS call and is included here for reporting purposes)

“The Mill trap fished daily during this reporting period. The trap catch included: 178 YOY Chinook: 54-101 mmfl, one yearling spring Chinook: 118 mmfl, and 13 steelhead: 34-221 mmfl. Flows ranged from 367 to 490 cfs.

The Deer trap fished daily also. The trap catch included 53 YOY Chinook: 35 - 94 mmfl and zero yearlings. One steelhead was captured: 26 mmfl. Flows ranged from 392 to 499 cfs. The 35 mmfl size range of Chinook could likely be a late-fall Chinook fry. It's unlikely a fall Chinook given the low elevation spawning of falls and unlikely a spring Chinook since the majority of spawning this year was below 3000 ft elevation, and fish at that elevation should currently be greater than 50 mmfl.”

Knights Landing (5/18-5/24):

Over approximately 14 trap-days of sampling, 6 fall-run Chinook salmon were caught (none of which were ad-clipped). The average CPUE (fish/trap-day) for the week was 0.44 for fall/spring-run, 0 for winter-run/late fall, and 0.0 for non-clipped steelhead.

On 5/24, an 80 mm female Delta smelt (eggs present) was found in the Knights Landing rotary screw trap.

FWS Sampling Data (5/16-5/22):

Beach Seines (including Liberty Island): 26 fall-run Chinook, 3 ad-clipped Chinook, 1352 splittail, and 6 delta smelt (Liberty Island)

Sacramento Midwater Trawls: 5 fall-run Chinook

Chippis Island Midwater Trawls: 285 fall-run Chinook, 12 spring-run Chinook, 1 adult Chinook, 90 ad-clipped Chinook, 1 splittail, & 1 longfin smelt

Mossdale Kodiak Trawls: 7 fall-run Chinook, 5 spring-run Chinook & 677 splittail.

CVP and SWP Fish Salvage Facilities (5/17-5/23):

The SWP curtailed water exports from 5/11/2010 to 5/20/2010 to install a transformer yard for the South Bay Pumping Plant. No salvage or larval sampling occurred during the SWP shutdown. The SWP resumed pumping on 5/21/2010.

No winter-run Chinook were reported at either facility for the week. Total combined loss of non-clipped winter-run YTD remains at 1,661 (total combined salvage = 1,068).

The loss of non-clipped spring-run Chinook at the CVP and SWP was 435 and 52, respectively, for a total weekly loss of 487 (salvage = 480). No ad-clipped spring-run Chinook were reported at either facility for the week.

20 non-clipped steelhead were salvaged at the CVP. No ad-clipped steelhead were salvaged at either facility for the week. The YTD non-clipped cumulative total for steelhead is 894; the take limit is 3,000.

Delta smelt were salvaged at the Federal facility (weekly salvage= 12), but not at the state facility for the period of reporting. Longfin smelt were salvaged at the Federal (weekly salvage= 4) and state (weekly salvage= 4) facilities for the period of reporting.

No green sturgeon were salvaged this week.

Daily loss densities for Chinook salmon: No loss of older juveniles occurred this week.

Smelt Working Group (SWG):

The SWG met yesterday and recommended that the projects operate such that OMR is no more negative than -5000 cfs. The final FWS recommendation will be presented at WOMT this afternoon. The SWG will next meet on Tuesday, June 1.

Operations:

SWP

Approximate releases and flows:

Oroville = 900 cfs

Freeport = 14,000 cfs

Vernalis = 5,000 cfs (releases on the Tuolumne have increased again)

Delta outflow = 17,000

Approximate OMR flows are:

Daily = low positive

5-day = 400 cfs

14-day = 500 cfs

The inflow to Clifton Court Forebay is approximately 700 cfs.

CVP

Approximate releases:

Keswick = 8,500 cfs, probably increasing later this week.

Nimbus = 5,000 cfs

Goodwin = 200 cfs

The Jones pumping plant is running one unit for an export rate of approximately 800 cfs.

Six-year Acoustic Tag Study:

The NMFS Opinion requires a six-year acoustic tag experiment to assess the behavior, movement, and survival of outmigrating salmonids in the lower San Joaquin River. Reclamation and DWR will do the initial drafting of the plan, potentially with input from other agencies. A draft study plan is expected sometime this summer and discussions on the development of the plan are still ongoing at the Five Agency and IMT meetings.

It was noted that the Acoustic telemetry workshop last week at the Bodega Marine Lab was very useful.

A few questions were asked regarding the six-year acoustic tag experiment:

- Would the six-year acoustic tag experiment take place instead of VAMP, or in conjunction with VAMP?
- What sort of coordination with the SWRCB would be advised to ensure that the six-year acoustic tag experiment is consistent with the requirements of D-1641?

The group agreed to revisit these questions on a later DOSS call.

Update on federal court proceedings:

The preliminary injunction hearing is scheduled for today and plaintiffs have asked that Judge Wanger make his ruling today.

DOSS advice for NMFS and WOMT:

Recent DOSS advice has been based on Actions IV.2.1 and IV.2.3 in the NMFS Opinion. Because the implementation of those actions will be affected by the Federal court ruling expected later today, DOSS is providing no advice to NMFS or WOMT today.

Next meeting: June 1 at 9:00 am.