

Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) Meeting
Thursday, June 28, 2018 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants

Charles Chamberlain, USFWS	Michael Prowatzke, WAPA
Kyle De Julio, Yurok	Joe Pisciotto, CDFW
Miles Daniels, NMFS	Ryan Revnak, CDFW
Eric Danner, NMFS	Diane Riddle, SWRCB
Vadim Demchuk, SWRCB	Alessia Siclari Melchor, SWRCB
Randi Field, Reclamation	Jim Smith, USFWS
Michael Hendrick, Reclamation	Mary Suppiger, Reclamation
Chris Kwan, SWRCB	Craig Williams, SWRCB
Kenneth Kundargi, CDFW	Garwin Yip, NMFS
Duane Linander, CDFW	

Key Discussion Topics with Summary of Outcomes and Agreements

Meeting Purpose and Overview

Reclamation reiterated the meeting purpose: members of the Sacramento River Temperature Task Group are provided status updates on Sacramento River seasonal temperature targets and anticipated performance.

Meeting Notes

Reclamation is still reconciling edits and comments from recent SRTTG meetings. In order to “pass a reasonable test” and support defensible meeting note edits, Reclamation is requesting meeting note commenters attend meetings. Reclamation is making every effort possible to accurately record each meeting’s discussion. Other agencies and individuals that attend the meetings in person, or via telephone, are welcome to propose changes or edits to the notes. If notes are revised with more accurate information after-the-fact, that information will be noted.

Fishery Update

Jim Smith and Charlie Chamberlain from USFWS provided fishery updates. The hatchery discussion was based on information distributed via email for the period 06/11/18 to 06/15/18:

“Total Broodstock Collected at LSNFH

	Natural Origin	Hatchery Origin	TOTAL	ONHAND	Spawnd
Female	10	45	55	29	16
Male	14	98	112 (15 jacks)	67	34

Of the 34 males spawned, only 20 died. Unfortunately we have 10 prespawnd females and 25 prespawnd males. The end of June goal is 58 females and 116 males. The season total is 60 females and 120 males.”

Snorkel surveys in Clear Creek identified 18 spring run chinook. The surveys showed that the numbers of fish did increase after each pulse. The Creek Fire posed a challenge last week, but with the help of BLM Fire, USFWS was able to complete the snorkel surveys and visit the screw traps.

Ryan Revnak from CDFW provided updates on monitoring. The most recent Sacramento River aerial redd survey this week identified 19 new winter run redds. Last week 14 new redds were identified. The lowest redds in the system were spotted slightly above the Cypress St. Bridge at RM 296. Last week's carcass survey resulted in 95 carcasses being handled, of these, 80% were of hatchery origin and 20% natural origin.

Additional fishery information is updated and posted on the SacPAS website: <http://www.cbr.washington.edu/sacramento/>.

Hydrology and Operations Update

See Meeting Agenda and Handouts for reference materials.

Randi Field from Reclamation reviewed system operations, temperatures, trends, Lake Shasta isothermal baths, Lake Shasta cold water pool volume, and the Shasta Temperature Control Device (TCD) configuration. Past and expected future operations and forecasted conditions were also discussed. Releases from Keswick Dam are currently 12,000 cfs with plans to increase to 12,500 cfs the next day. Releases are to support Delta requirements and July's expected release increases will support export operations. Seasonal release patterns from Keswick Dam are consistent with previous month expectations.

Temperature Management

See Meeting Agenda and Handouts for reference materials.

Active temperature management is underway. Reclamation is targeting 53.5°F daily average temperature (DAT) and 56°F DAT at Balls Ferry. Currently, the upper and middle gates are open on the TCD. Reclamation is starting to decrease the usage of the upper gates and moving towards primarily using the middle gates. The TCD configuration is 2 upper gates open and 3 middle gates open today; tomorrow an additional middle gate will be opened.

Reclamation has been operating the TCD system in a conservative manner and has not been making rapid changes. Temperature operations have been running cooler than the limit to accommodate several oscillations in short lived heat waves which make adjusting downward difficult. Balls Ferry (BSF) water temperatures are running a little bit cooler than the limit, with a mean daily average around 55°F in June. The mean daily average at the Sacramento River at Clear Creek (CCR) is just below 53°F DAT in June.

The 8 to 14 day air temperature forecast for the Redding area is normal. Triple digit air temperatures are expected this weekend in Redding, and then a cooling trend is expected through the first week of July into the lower 90s. Longer term projections suggest the July through September air temperatures are forecasted to be above normal.

The isothermobath cold water pool observations are expected. Nothing is currently a cause of concern with the isothermobath. The cold water pool volume < 48°F degrees has consistently been less than average since the spring.

Temperature Studies

Reclamation is still focusing on the 90% runoff exceedance forecast as the 50% runoff exceedance forecast is not realistic given current inflow trends. Model runs show target temperatures at CCR and BSF as achievable, however end of September cold-water-pool volume information used to supplement known limitations of the temperature model in the fall period suggest caution. The cold-water-pool volume is dipping below the desired target and the latest runs suggest a potential erosion of confidence in the fall temperature performance. Simulated side gate openings (first and full) also show earlier time frames.

Reclamation is taking a cautious approach, Randi is planning on re-running the models as soon as all of the reservoir profile observations are submitted (planned for next week). Additional model runs will be shared with the group via email. After the next data set is analyzed, Reclamation will re-evaluate the ability to meet temperatures and a sustained pilot study. If updated information in early July suggests concerns for fall temperature performance, then Reclamation will call a supplemental meeting for further discussions.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is July 26, 2018 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, in Sacramento at the Joint Operations Center.