

**Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes**  
**11/8/12 at 11:00 a.m.**

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Geir Aasen, Julio Adib-Samii and Lauren Damon (DFG), Edmund Yu, James Gleim, Kevin Reece and Wenli Yin (DWR), Craig Anderson and Jon Speegle (FWS), RG Fernando (MWD), Barb Byrne (NMFS)

**Sacramento River Salmonid Monitoring**

<b>Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report</b>			
<b>Species*</b>	<b>FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)</b>	<b>DFG Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)</b>	<b>DFG Knights Landing RST (Catch)***</b>
<b>Date</b>	10/21/12 to 11/3/12	10/26/12 to 11/5/12	10/23/12 to 11/7/12
<b>CHNF</b>	234		
<b>CHNLF</b>	2,739		
<b>CHNW</b>	76,867**		
<b>CHNS</b>	32,633		
<b>CHN hatchery</b>			
<b>SH wild</b>	738		
<b>SH hatchery</b>			
*Chinook race based on length; CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS=Spring run, SH = Steelhead. All data are preliminary and subject to change.			

\*\*Winter-run Chinook salmon was the dominant Chinook salmon race at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam for the reporting period. However, there has been a huge decline in the biweekly winter-run Chinook salmon passage total when compared to the last biweekly report, where the estimated passage total for winter-run Chinook salmon was 275,337 from 10/7 to 10/20.

\*\*\*On 11/5, flow at Wilkins Slough was at about 4,976 cfs and water temperature was at about 61°F at Knights Landing. As described in the NMFS BiOp RPA IV.1.1, these environmental measurements are used as a second alert to warn of salmon presence for the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gate operations. This second alert occurs when flow at Wilkins Slough is greater than 7,500 cfs and water temperature is less than 56.3°F at Knights Landing.

A graphical summary of the Sacramento River salmonid monitoring data can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>. In addition, biweekly juvenile salmonid monitoring reports for the Red Bluff Diversion Dam can be found at [http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd\\_biweekly.aspx](http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx).

**Delta Fish Monitoring**

<b>FWS Trawl and Seine Report for smelt and splittail from 10/28/12 to 11/03/12</b>				
<b>Species*</b>	<b>Beach Seines</b>	<b>Mossdale Trawl</b>	<b>Sacramento Trawl</b>	<b>Chippis Island Trawl</b>
<b>DSM</b>				1 (64 mm, no expression)
<b>LFS</b>				1
<b>SPLT</b>	5 (all from Sherman Island)			1
*DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail. All data are preliminary and subject to change.				

FWS Trawl and Seine Report for salmonids from 10/28/12 to 11/03/12				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl	Sacramento Trawl	Chippis Isand Trawl
CHNA				
CHNF				
CHNLF				
CHNW				
CHNS				
CHN hatchery				
SH wild				
SH hatchery				

\*Chinook race based on length; CHNA= Adult, CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead. All data are preliminary and subject to change.

The Delta fish monitoring data from FWS are also posted online at <http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/datamanagement.asp>.

#### **Salvage Monitoring**

Not much to report between 10/1 and 11/7 since no listed species have been salvaged at either facility.

Salvage information is posted on the salvage FTP website (<ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>). If you cannot access the FTP site, you can also go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx> and click on "Salvage FTP Site."

#### **Smelt Monitoring**

Prior to the DAT conference call, Lauren Damon (DFG) sent out the Fall Midwater Trawl memo to the DAT group regarding the fish abundance and distribution from the September and October 2012 surveys. The September survey ran from 9/4 to 9/19 and the October survey ran from 10/1 to 10/18.

No delta smelt were caught during the September survey. In October, there were 16 delta smelt caught in the confluence, 4 delta smelt caught in the lower Sacramento River, and 2 delta smelt caught in the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel for a total of 22.

One longfin smelt was caught in San Pablo Bay and one longfin smelt was caught in Suisun Bay in September for a total of two. In October, two longfin smelt were caught in Suisun Bay.

For more information about the Fall Midwater Trawl, please visit the DFG website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=FMWT>.

#### **Smelt Working Group (SWG)**

No SWG representative was present during the DAT conference call. After the DAT call, Leigh Bartoo (FWS) sent out an e-mail update. Excerpts from the e-mail can be found below:

We have updated our website and some of the old links no longer work, although we are trying to get redirections set up. The new link for the SWG information is now: [http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt\\_working\\_group.cfm](http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm).

We do not have our first meeting for WY2013 set up yet, but expect to have a meeting late in November or early December.

Please contact Leigh directly if there are any questions about the Smelt Working Group.

### **Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group**

DOSS met on Tuesday (11/6) and provided no advice to NMFS or WOMT since none of the action responses for the DCC gate operations or for export reductions have been triggered by any of the fish monitoring data. Some of the highlights related to fish monitoring are described below:

- As of 11/3, the brood year 2012 total for winter-run Chinook salmon passage at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam is just over 700,000 and is the lowest DOSS has seen when looking back at the winter-run passage data since brood year 2006. However, the season is not yet over, so DOSS is only comparing a part way through the season number to the end of the season numbers. Nonetheless, it looks like the winter-run estimated passage for brood year 2012 will be on the low side.
- As of 11/7, there has been over 5,000 fall-run Chinook salmon returning when looking at the Stanislaus Weir data. This is the highest number of fall-run Chinook salmon returning when looking back at the data from the last 10 years.
- DOSS also talked about the DFG acoustic tagging project for the Mokelumne River pulse flow study. DFG has been tagging adult Chinook salmon in the west Delta and are tracking the movement of these Chinook salmon.

After DOSS finished reviewing the monitoring data, DOSS did a final check in on the 2012 annual review, which happened last week on Wednesday (10/31) and Thursday (11/1). Some of the initial thoughts from the annual review panel include convening a work group that will focus on behavior modeling for salmonids and considering a hybrid rock and non-physical barrier at the head of Old River. Furthermore, the annual review panel was struck by the low through-Delta survival for Chinook salmon (i.e., 2% in 2011) that was reported in Rebecca Buchanan's presentation on the 2011 acoustic tagging study for the Vernalis Adaptive Management Program (VAMP).

The 2011 VAMP study also showed that survival was lower in the San Joaquin River route when compared to the Old River route, which differs from the past trend based on historical coded-wire tag (CWT) data. As a result, the annual review panel suggested calibrating the CWT data with the acoustic tag data to see if there has been a change in route survival over the years or if the results are just an artifact of the sampling method and experimental design.

The final report from the annual review panel will come out on 12/1 and will be posted on the Delta Stewardship Council's 2012 annual review website (<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/events/science-program-review/2012-long-term-operations-opinions-annual-review-0>). Currently, the review materials and the presentations are posted on the website.

DOSS notes from the 11/6 meeting will be posted at <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>.

### **Operations**

<b>Summary for 11/8/12</b>			
<b>State Water Project (SWP)</b>		<b>Central Valley Project (CVP)</b>	
<b>Clifton Court (cfs)</b>	2,000	<b>Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)</b>	4,200
<b>Outflow (cfs)</b>	~3,700	<b>American - Nimbus (cfs)</b>	1,850
<b>Feather - Oroville (cfs)</b>	2,400	<b>Sacramento - Keswick (cfs)</b>	6,000
<b>San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of midnight</b>	681		
<b>SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of midnight</b>	285		
<b>X2 (Km)</b>	>81		
<b>E/I (%)</b>	51 (3-day average)		

There was a question about whether Keswick releases will continue to drop through November. An e-mail update was sent out after the DAT conference call and Keswick releases were still holding at about 6,000 cfs as of 11/14.

Daily operations summary can be viewed at  
<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>.

**Next Meeting:** The next DAT conference call will be on 11/15 at 11:00 a.m.

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