

Summary of DAT Conference Call 5/8/2007

Participants: EChappell (DWR), PJohnsen (FWS), RGartz(DFG), BOppenheim(NMFS), KFleming(DFG), VPoage(FWS), AChu(DWR), JWhite(DFG), MFord(DWR), NHindman(FWS), JSnow(WWD), TBoardman(SLDMWA), THinojosa(DWR), PManza(BR), SGreene(DWR), MGuerin(CCWD)

Conclusions and Recommendations

There were no new operational recommendations today.

VAMP started on Saturday 4/22 with a flow target of 3200cfs on the San Joaquin River at Vernalis and a combined export rate of 1500cfs. The first group of acoustically tagged Chinook was released last week.

20mm Survey Update – DFG started Survey 5 yesterday in the south Delta. The samples are still being processed but one delta smelt larvae was caught near Frank's Tract. Only 3 larval smelt were caught in Survey 4 bringing the total to 17 so far this season. This the lowest total on record for this time period. The results from the 20mm surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/>.

Spring Kodiak Trawl Update – DFG completed the final survey last week (Survey 5). DFG caught a total of 27 delta smelt with most of the fish being caught in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel. Most of the fish had spawned and some of the fish are developing a second ovary. However, these fish are not expected to spawn again due to the increasing water temperatures. The results from the Spring Kodiak Trawl surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/skt/>.

Next DAT Conference Call Tuesday, 5/15/2007, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Phone number 916/657-4111.

Chinook Monitoring

Upper Sacramento River

Red Bluff Diversion Dam – No update.

FWS posts biweekly reports on the Bay-Delta and Tributaries Project website, at http://baydelta.ca.gov/Php/Special_Reports/red_bluff.php

Mill Creek – The catch of Chinook was similar to previous weeks but the catch of steelhead increased substantially. DFG caught 301 fry/smolt Chinook and 103 steelhead.

Deer Creek – The catch of Chinook decreased in the last week. DFG caught 722 fry/smolt Chinook and 5 steelhead.

Butte Creek –For the period of 4/30 to 5/3 the catch of fry/smolts decreased ranging from 63 to 143 per day.

GCID – For three days of sampling, the catch of fry/smolt Chinook decreased ranging from 148 to 359 per day. The catch of adclipped Chinook also decreased ranging from 4 to 7 per day.

Knights Landing – The catch of fry/smolt Chinook is decreasing and ranged from 9 to 202 per trap-day. DFG also caught 202 adclipped Chinook.

Delta Monitoring

Sacramento Mid-water Trawl – 2 sample days, 45 samples. FWS did a 24-hour efficiency test and caught 1231 fry/smolts and 554 adclipped Chinook. FWS also caught 1 adclipped steelhead.

Lower Sacramento River seine – 1 sample day, 6 samples. FWS caught 13 fry/smolts Chinook and 13 splittail.

North Delta seine – 2 sample day, 7 samples. FWS caught 14 fry/smolt Chinook and 2 splittail.

Central Delta seine – 1 sample days, 8 samples. FWS caught 1 delta smelt (Rio Vista) and 1 splittail.

South Delta seine – 1 sample day, 8 samples. No species of interest.

Mosssdale Kodiak Trawl – 4 sample days, 40 samples. DFG, Region 4 is now sampling 5 days per week. They caught 256 fry/smolt Chinook and 3 in-river steelhead.

San Joaquin River seine – 2 sample days, 5 samples. FWS caught 28 splittail and no other species of interest.

Chippis Island Midwater Trawl – 7 sample days, 67 samples. FWS caught 1078 fry/smolt, 3 older juvenile and 8 adclipped Chinook. They also caught 6 delta smelt (not checked) and 5 splittail.

Bay seine – 1 sample day, 3 samples. No species of interest.

Delta Smelt Monitoring

Spring Kodiak Trawl Update – DFG completed the final survey last week (Survey 5). DFG caught a total of 27 delta smelt with most of the fish being caught in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel. Most of the fish had spawned and some of the fish are developing a second ovary. However, these fish are not expected to spawn again due to the increasing water temperatures. The results from the Spring Kodiak Trawl surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/skt/>.

20mm Survey Update – DFG started Survey 5 yesterday in the south Delta. The samples are still being processed but one delta smelt larvae was caught near Frank's Tract. Only 3 larval smelt were caught in Survey 4 bringing the total to 17 so far this season. This the lowest total on record for this time period. The results from the 20mm surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/>.

Delta Smelt Working Group Update – The DSWG met yesterday, 5/7, to review survey results and water temperature data. The group has no operational recommendations at this time. They will meet again on May 14th to review survey results and water temperature data, and to discuss any potential post-VAMP actions.

Salvage Facilities –

Chinook – No winter-run length Chinook were lost at either Facility in the last week. To date, the season total at the CVP is 1555 and the season total is 1742 at the SWP.

Steelhead – SWP salvaged 4 in-river and 4 adclipped steelhead. The combined salvage of in-river steelhead is 2739 for the season. The incidental take level is 3000. Salvage has dropped since the start of VAMP but biologists are planning for a post-VAMP action if necessary. The action would be a ramp-up in pumping from May 23rd to May 31st. They are also considering recommending leaving the HORB during this time. Biologists will continue to monitor salvage data, Mossdale trawl data and water temperatures to determine if a post-VAMP action is necessary.

Delta smelt – CVP salvaged 12 delta smelt for a season total of 72.

Splittail – SWP salvaged 8 splittail for a season total of 298.

Longfin smelt – None.

Sturgeon – None.

The DFG Salvage Database can be accessed at this ftp site: <ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>.

Turbidity data for Clifton Court forebay is available at: <http://cdec2.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryFx?CLC>.

VAMP Update

VAMP started on Saturday 4/22 with a flow target of 3200cfs on the San Joaquin River at Vernalis and a combined export rate of 1500cfs. The first group of acoustically tagging Chinook was released on May 3rd. VAMP will continue until May 22nd.

Agricultural Barriers

HORB – The barrier is closed with three culverts open to protect downstream water levels.

Old & Middle River – The barriers are closed and the culverts are operating tidally.

Grantline – DWR received approval to close the barrier from FWS on 4/25 to protect downstream water levels. The barrier is expected to be closed early this week.

Operations

SWP -

CCFB – 700 cfs.

Oroville – 1,750 cfs.

X2 – ~ 71 km.

E/I - 14-day = 9.2%.

San Luis - ~819 taf. SWP share of San Luis capacity is 1,062 taf.

EWA - The current debt in San Luis is approximately 185-190taf. VAMP is currently controlling operations

and EWA is accruing debt at about 0-2taf per day. There is also a 30taf placeholder for a post-VAMP shoulder in place.

CVP -

Tracy PP – 800 cfs.

DCC – Closed.

Trinity – 3,900 cfs. The BR will begin ramping down releases today.

Clear Creek – 200 cfs.

Keswick – 9,000 cfs. Releases were increased to help meet the Wilkins Slough objective.

Nimbus – 1,500 cfs.

Goodwin – 1,500 cfs.

San Luis – 656 taf. CVP share of San Luis capacity is 966 taf.

Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 11,677 cfs and decreasing slowly.

Fremont Weir ~ 0.

San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 3,012 cfs and will increase slightly.

Delta Outflow ~ 12,800 cfs. The 7-day average is 13,000 cfs.

Old and Middle Rivers ~ combined -1148 cfs as of 5/5/07; 5-day average is -1781 cfs.

Delta Water Quality

Salinity levels are good in the western Delta and have been improving in the south Delta except at the Old River near Tracy Road Bridge station. The Chipps Island X2 standard has been met for May.

May Water Quality Standards

Collinsville X2 standard – The standard must be met for the full 31 days by a maximum daily EC of 2.64, a maximum 14-day running average EC of 2.64 or 3-day outflow of 7,100cfs.

Chipps Island X2 standard –The standard must be met for 1 day by a maximum daily EC of 2.64, a maximum 14-day running average EC of 2.64 or 3-day outflow of 11,400cfs. This standard has been met.

Port Chicago was not triggered for May.

E/I Ratio – $\leq 35\%$.

Contra Costa Canal – CI ≤ 250 mg/L. In addition, CI ≤ 150 mg/L for 165 days per year. This portion of the standard has been met for 109 days so far.

Western Delta – EC ≤ 0.45 at Emmaton, Jersey Point, Terminous, and San Andreas stations.

South Delta – 30-day average EC ≤ 0.7

Suisun Marsh = EC ≤ 11

Erin Chappell

Environmental Scientist

DWR-DES

901 P Street, P.O. Box 942836

Sacramento, CA 95814-6424

Phone (916) 651-0169

Fax (916) 651-9563