

Summary of DAT Conference Call 5/30/2007

Participants: EChappell (DWR), PJohnsen (FWS), RGartz(DFG), KFleming(DFG), MWhite(DWR), NHindman(FWS), JSnow(WWD), THinojosa(DWR), MGuerin(CCWD), JSpeegle(FWS), AChu(DWR), TSwanson(BI), MFord(DWR), BHerbold(EPA), VPoage(FWS), BPoytress(FWS)

Conclusions and Recommendations

There were no new operational recommendations today.

Salvage of juvenile delta smelt at SWP has been increasing over the past several days. Delta smelt are also being salvaged at CVP.

20mm Survey Update – DFG completed Survey 6 last week. DFG has processed most of the samples from tow 1 and caught 3 delta smelt near the confluence. So far this season DFG has caught a total of 28 larval delta smelt. This the lowest total on record for this time period. Survey 7 will begin next week. The results from the 20mm surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/>.

DSWG Update – The DSWG met on Thursday, 5/24, to review the results from the PTM runs for the DCC gate operations and the water temperature criteria for the south Delta. The PTM runs were done under current flow and export conditions for the DCC gates opened 7 days per week and with the DCC gates opened on the weekends (base case). There was only a slight difference in particle entrainment between the two runs but the particle did have a lower residence time in the central delta with the gates open 7 days per week. The DSWG recommended opening the DCC gates at WOMT yesterday, 5/29 but recognized that concerns about salmonids may outweigh the possible benefits to delta smelt.

The group also reviewed the water temperature criteria currently being used in the Old and Middle River flow recommendation. The group decided that additional stations were not necessary and kept the original water temperature stations used in the recommendation. The current recommendation is to keep the combined 5-day average flows in Old River and Middle River greater than or equal to 0 cfs until south Delta water temperatures reach 25C. The water temperature is calculated using the average temperature at three stations: Prisoner's Point, Victoria Canal, and Holland Tract. DSWG meeting summaries are posted at http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/delta_smelt.htm.

General Discussion(s) – Tina Swanson (BI) expressed her concern that WOMT has not met the DSWG action to moderate Old and Middle River Flows and that they did not implement the recent recommendation to keep the DCC gates open and asked how FWS planned to address it. Victoria Poage (FWS) responded that FWS is currently reviewing the decisions and looking at possible alternatives.

Several stakeholders expressed concerns that the DCC gate recommendation was rejected when water quality does not appear to be a problem at this time and while there is such heightened concern for delta smelt. The operators responded that the modeling indicated that with the DCC gates open 7 days per week the daily values at Emmaton were expected to increase enough to cause the 14-day standard to be exceeded in June. The Emmaton salinity standard must be met under D-1641 through June 15th. The stakeholders questioned why

they were not trying to meet the standard by increasing releases. The operators responded that increased releases would have to be covered by b2 or EWA. The stakeholders requested that the PA's determine how much b2 and/or EWA would be needed to meet the standard by increasing releases.

Next DAT Conference Call Tuesday, 6/5/2007, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Phone number – 916/657-4111.

Chinook Monitoring

Upper Sacramento River

Red Bluff Diversion Dam – The RBDD gates were lowered for the season on May 15th. Fall-run passage remains steady averaging 46,000 per day, late fall passage decreased averaging 509 per day, spring-run passage also decreased averaging 15 per day. No winter-run length Chinook have been recovered since April 20th and adclipped Chinook catch was about 3 per day. Steelhead passage has decreased averaging 182 per day.

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 both Chinook and steelhead decreased last week. DFG caught 248 fry/smolt Chinook and 6 steelhead. Water temperature has remained below 65F but flows have decreased due to water diversions.

Deer Creek – DFG pulled the trap for the season on May 18th due to low flows and high water temperatures.

Butte Creek – DFG pulled the traps on May 3rd for major repairs. They are done sampling for this season.

GCID – The catch of fry/smolt Chinook increased last week ranging from 187 to 330 per day. The catch was similar to the catch prior to the dredging operations. DFG did not catch any adclipped Chinook or steelhead.

Knights Landing – The catch of fry/smolt Chinook remains low ranging from 1 to 2 per trap-day. DFG also caught 1 adclipped steelhead. DFG did not sample over the weekend and drop to checking only twice a week in June. Water temperatures are holding between 68 and 70F.

Delta Monitoring

Summary - No Chinook were caught in the beach seining and the catch is decreasing in both the Mossdale and Chipps Island trawls. The catch of splittail remains high in the Lower Sacramento River beach seine and splittail are still be caught in low numbers in the north and central Delta seines. One adult delta smelt was caught in the Chipps Island trawl this week.

Sacramento Mid-water Trawl – 0 sample days, 0 samples. The boat was needed for whale monitoring so FWS did not sample.

Lower Sacramento River seine – 1 sample day, 6 samples. FWS caught 107 splittail and no other species of concern.

North Delta seine – 1 sample day, 4 samples. FWS caught 1 splittail and no other species of interest.

Central Delta seine – 2 sample days, 13 samples. FWS caught 4 splittail and no other species of interest.

South Delta seine – 1 sample day, 4 samples. No species of interest.

Mossdale Kodiak Trawl – 4 sample days, 40 samples. DFG, Region 4 sampled 7 days per week. For four days of reporting they caught 208 fry/smolt Chinook, 1 in-river steelhead, and 1 splittail. DFG will continue sampling until June 15th and at that point FWS will resume sampling 3 days per week.

San Joaquin River seine – 1 sample days, 2 samples. No species of interest.

Chipps Island Midwater Trawl – 6 sample days, 60 samples. FWS caught 55 fry/smolts and 14 adclipped Chinook. They also caught 1 delta smelt (not checked) and 3 splittail.

Bay seine – 1 sample day, 4 samples. No species of interest.

Delta Smelt Monitoring

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Delta Smelt Working Group Update – The DSWG met on Thursday, 5/24, to review the results from the PTM runs for the DCC gate operations and the water temperature criteria for the south Delta. The PTM runs were done under current flow and export conditions for the DCC gates opened 7 days per week and with the DCC gates opened on the weekends (base case). There was only a slight difference in particle entrainment between the two runs but the particle did have a lower residence time in the central delta with the gates open 7 days per week. The DSWG recommended opening the DCC gates at WOMT yesterday, 5/29 but recognized that concerns about salmonids may outweigh the possible benefits to delta smelt.

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Victoria Canal, and Holland Tract. DSWG meeting summaries are posted at http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/delta_smelt.htm.

Salvage Facilities –

Summary - Fall-run Chinook loss remained low last week. The salvage of in-river steelhead increased at CVP but decreased at SWP. The salvage of larval delta smelt increased at both Facilities and longfin smelt were salvaged at the SWP for the first time this season. Finally, the salvage of splittail remains low at the SWP but increased at the CVP.

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 – CVP salvaged 13 in-river and 2 hatchery steelhead. The combined salvage of in-river steelhead is 2761 for the season. The incidental take level is 3000. Salvage has dropped since the start of VAMP but biologists will continue to monitor salvage data, Mossdale trawl data, and water temperatures.

Delta smelt – SWP salvaged 64 delta smelt (26-34mm) for a season total of 64 through May 28th. CVP salvaged 96 delta smelt (22-36mm) for a season total of 240 through May 28th. The salvage has increased at SWP over the last several days. The CCFB gates are being opened daily for several hours starting around midnight. SWP is currently conducting 30 minute counts. After the call Russ Gartz (DFG) provided an updated summary of larval delta smelt salvage through May 31st. The attached file, Delta smelt salvage graphs 2007a.xls, has the daily counts, expanded salvage, and cumulative salvage for the season to date.

Splittail – SWP salvaged 6 splittail for a season total of 308. CVP salvaged 108 splittail for a season total of 240.

Longfin smelt – SWP salvaged 8 longfin smelt for a season total of 8.

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>.

Agricultural Barriers

HORB – Due to concerns for delta smelt WOMT requested that the barrier be removed. The HORB was partially breached on May 21st and fully breached on May 22nd. Work continues to finish removal and clean up.

Ag barriers – USFWS directed that the culvert flap gates be tied open to improve net downstream flows and to facilitate the movement of delta smelt out of the south and central

Delta. This action is provided for in the biological opinion for delta smelt. DWR tied open all but two flap gates on May 23rd. The two flap gates on the Middle River barrier had broken cables that are currently being repaired.

The weekly updates on barrier operations are now available at:
http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/sdb/tbp/index_tbp.cfm.

Operations

SWP -

CCFB – 400 cfs.

Oroville – 1,750 cfs.

X2 – between Chipps Island and Collinsville.

E/I - 14-day = 9.2%.

San Luis - ~617 taf. SWP share of San Luis capacity is 1,062 taf.

EWA - The current debt in San Luis for SWP is approximately 240 to 250 taf. The current debt in San Luis for CVP is approximately 25 to 30 taf. EWA is accruing debt at about 10 taf per day for both Projects combined. EWA is currently being used to implement the DSWG action to moderate combined Old and Middle flow greater than or equal to 0 cfs which started on May 16th.

CVP -

Tracy PP – 850 cfs.

DCC – Open. The gates will be closed today until Saturday morning to help meet the Emmaton standard. The DCC gates must also be closed for 14 days between May 20th and June 15th under D-1641.

Trinity – 1500 cfs.

Clear Creek – 200 cfs.

Keswick – 10,500 cfs. Releases will be increased to 11,000 cfs on 6/1 to help meet the outflow standard.

Nimbus – 1,500 cfs.

Goodwin – 1,500 cfs. The BR plans to ramp down releases to 400 cfs this weekend. All of the acquired assets have been used but the MA's are looking for additional assets.

San Luis – 447 taf. CVP share of San Luis capacity is 966 taf. The maximum drawdown for San Luis is 2 feet per day. The operators noted that the daily drawdown could start bumping up against that maximum.

Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 7,705 cfs.

Fremont Weir ~ 0.

San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 2,542 cfs.

Delta Outflow ~ 7,328 cfs. The 3-day average is 7,180 cfs.

Old and Middle Rivers ~ combined -943 cfs as of 5/27/07; 5-day average is -743 cfs.

Delta Water Quality

Salinity levels are increasing but remain below the standards. Salinity is improving at the Old River near Tracy Road Bridge station and is expected to be back in compliance this week (30-day < 0.7).

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.

Chippis 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 – $Cl \leq 250$ mg/L. In addition, $Cl \leq 150$ mg/L for 165 days per year. This portion of the standard has been met for 130 days so far.

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

South Delta – 30-day average $EC \leq 0.7$

Suisun Marsh = $EC \leq 11$

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