Summary of DAT Conference Call 7/3/2007

Participants: EChappell (DWR), RGartz(DFG), JSnow(WWD), THinojosa(DWR), MGuerin(CCWD), EVolkman(FWS), TSwanson(BI), CKao(SCVWA), TBoardman(SLDMWA), MFord(DWR), PManza(BR), EGleason(DFG), RDenton(CCWD), PJohnsen(FWS), BOppenheim(NOAA), CCreel(KCWA), PBrandes(FWS)

Conclusions and Recommendations

There were no new operational recommendations today.

20mm Survey Update – DFG completed Survey 8 last week. DFG is still processing samples but have caught 60 delta smelt. DFG has caught a total of approximately 98 larval delta smelt so far this season. Survey 9 started this week. The results from the 20mm surveys are posted at http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/.

DSWG Update – The DSWG met yesterday, 7/2, and reviewed the latest monitoring data, delta conditions and salvage data. The water temperature for the 3-station average is 23.7C and the salvaged delta smelt ranged from 25 to 59mm. The DSWG is concerned about the continuing salvage and will recommend that the Projects operate to a net upstream Old and Middle flows not to exceed 5000cfs unless/until (1) the Working Group has a chance to review the PTM or (2) there is no salvage at either facility for three days. The group requested some PTM runs to assess the risk of entrainment for fish near the confluence. The DSWG will meet on Friday, 7/6 to review the PTM results.

General Discussion(s) – Curtis Creel (KCWA) noted that the salvage pattern at SWP is not atypical given the recent low pumping and that the increasing water temperature in the Forebay is likely pushing the fish that were residing in the Forebay toward the intake. He noted that the DSWG is making a very conservative recommendation based on the salvage of one delta smelt at CVP. Tina Swanson (BI) noted it was possible that not all of the smelt being salvaged were from the Forebay and that protection was warranted. She also asked if you assumed all the smelt were from the Forebay, how long it would take to salvage all of them. Russ Gartz (DFG) responded that based on analysis by DFG that it would take 2 to 3 days at the current export levels to turn over the water in the Forebay.

Water temperature in the south Delta, based on the three stations used in the DSWG temperature criterion, remains below 25C at 23.7C. Jim Snow (WWD) asked if the temperatures would exceed 25C with the expected heat wave later this week. Peter Johnsen (FWS) noted that the water temperature could exceed 25C but that the DSWG will continue to monitor other factors such as salvage. He explained that while 25C was considered the “lethal” temperature, delta smelt could still remain in the south Delta using temperature refugias, areas with lower temperatures than what is measured at the stations, or tolerate high day temperatures if water temperatures cool off during the night. In addition, Tina Swanson noted that smelt that are

acclimated to warm temperatures, as the fish in the south Delta are, can survive temperatures greater than 25C.

Next DAT Conference Call Tuesday, 7/10/2007, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Phone number – 916/657-4111.

Delta Smelt Monitoring

Summer Tow Net Survey Update – DFG caught 10 delta smelt in Survey 1. DFG is still processing samples from Survey 2 but have caught 10 more delta smelt. One fish was caught in Grizzly Bay and the others were caught in the lower Sacramento River. For comparison, in 2006 no delta smelt were caught in the first two surveys.

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Chinook Monitoring

Upper Sacramento River Summary – Fry/smolt Chinook and in-river steelhead are still being caught in the RBDD rotary screw traps. Fry/smolt Chinook were caught in low numbers in the GCID rotary screw trap and 2 were caught in the Knights Landing traps. DFG removed the traps at Knights Landing for the season on June 28th. They will resume sampling on October 1st.

Delta Monitoring Summary - Sampling was suspended at Chipps Island and was restricted in the North Delta beach seine to protect delta smelt last week. Fry/smolt Chinook were only caught in the Sacramento River trawl. No steelhead were caught in the last week.

Salvage Facilities –

Summary – Delta smelt and splittail were salvaged at both Facilities in the last week. No fry/smolt Chinook or in-river steelhead were salvaged.

Chinook – None.

Steelhead – None.

Delta smelt – CVP salvaged 12 delta smelt on July 1st for a season total of 348. Last week, SWP salvaged 1,101 delta smelt for a season total of 1,907. SWP salvaged 311 smelt yesterday, 7/2.

Splittail – SWP salvaged 2 splittail for a season total of 312. CVP salvaged 84 splittail for a season total of 504.

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

The CVRWQCB inspection report stated that there was no evidence of a link between a specific event at the Stockton Wastewater Treatment Plant and the fish mortality event. However, the matter is still under investigation. Dave Vogel has presented the preliminary results from the acoustic tagging to the technical group.

Agricultural Barriers

HORB – The barrier has been completely removed.

Ag barriers –The barriers are operating tidally. One flap gate on the Middle River barrier is broken so the culvert is open. DWR is in the process of scheduling the repair.

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

Operations

SWP -

CCFB – 6,100 cfs.
Oroville – 8,000 cfs.
E/I - 3-day = 49.7%.
San Luis - ~332 taf. SWP share of San Luis capacity is 1,062 taf.
EWA - The current debt for SWP is approximately 320 to 330taf. The current debt in San Luis for CVP is approximately 90 to 100taf. EWA assets have not been used since June 15th.

CVP -

Tracy PP – 4,300 cfs.
DCC – Open.
Trinity – 450 cfs.
Clear Creek – 150 cfs.
Keswick – 15,000 cfs.
Nimbus – 3,500 cfs.
Goodwin – 350 cfs.
San Luis – 163 taf. CVP share of San Luis capacity is 966 taf.

Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 19,960 cfs and increasing.
Fremont Weir ~ 0.
San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 1,300 cfs and decreasing.
Delta Outflow ~ 6,747 cfs. The 3-day average is 7,148 cfs.
Old and Middle Rivers ~ combined -5,860 cfs as of 6/30/07; 5-day average is -5,374 cfs.

Delta Water Quality

Water quality is okay but the Projects are watching salinity at the Old River near Tracy station in the south Delta.

July Water Quality Standards

Delta Outflow – monthly average >= 5,000cfs and 7-day average >= 4,000cfs.

E/I Ratio – <= 65%.

Contra Costa Canal – Cl <= 250 mg/L. In addition, Cl <= 150 mg/L for 165 days per year. This portion of the standard has been met for the year.

Western Delta – EC at Emmaton must be less than or equal to 1.67 and at Jersey Point it must be less than or equal to 1.35. The San Andreas station is 0.58. The objective at Mokelumne River at Terminous remains 0.45 EC or less through August 15.

South Delta – 30-day average EC <= 0.7 until the end of August.

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