Summary of DAT Conference Call 10/30/2007

Participants: EChappell(DWR), JSpeegle(FWS), RGartz(DFG), RMunds(City of SLO), BPoytress(FWS), LTran(DWR), JWhite(DFG), LBartoo(FWS), KTotzke(KCWA), AChu(DWR), RSitts(MWD), JSnow(WWD), ADVorak(SWC), JAdib-Samii(DFG), PBrandes(FWS), EGleason(DFG), LKiteck(BR)

Conclusions and Recommendation

The Salmon Decision Tree has been revised. The Decision Tree has a new format and was extended to include VAMP. The biologists are still in the process of developing triggers for the post-VAMP period to protect San Joaquin fall Chinook. The Salmon Decision Tree is posted at http://wwwoco.water.ca.gov/calfedops/ops/2008/salmon_decision.pdf.

The October Fall Midwater Trawl (FMWT) index for delta smelt is 4. Erin Gleason (DFG) distributed the Delta Smelt recovery index after the DAT call. Based on September and October 2007 FMWT data, none of the Distributional or Abundance criteria were met for 2007. The Abundance criteria catch, also referred to as the Recovery Index, is 5 and the two year average is 13. A summary of the Distributional and
Abundance criteria for both 2006 and 2007 are provided in the Delta Smelt Monitoring section of these notes.

Final copies of the DAT notes will now be posted on the CALFED Operations website at http://wwwoco.water.ca.gov/calfedops/datsummaries.html.

No operational changes were recommended at this time.

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

Chinook Monitoring

Upper Sacramento River

Red Bluff Diversion Dam – For the last two weeks passage averaged 12,000/day but is decreasing. The passage so far this season is 1.3 million. This is the lowest passage during this period (July 1-October 28) in the

last five years.

Late fall Chinook passage was approximately 590/day. Spring Chinook passage increased to approximately 610/day and steelhead passage was approximately 250/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 – DFG installed the rotary screw trap on October 15th. In the first week the catch was unusually high but was associated with the rain event. DFG caught 659 spring-run yearlings and 70 steelhead. Last week the catch dropped to 27 spring-run yearlings and 11 steelhead.

Deer Creek – DFG will install the rotary screw trap once the flows increase.

Butte Creek – DFG will install the rotary screw trap once the flows increase. They will start in the in-river tagging program on January 1st.

GCID – Heavy debris has affected trap operations. The catch of older juvenile Chinook ranged from 1 to 82 per day over the last two weeks. A few fry Chinook were also recovered.

Knights Landing – DFG installed the rotary screw traps on October 13th. So far DFG has caught one fry Chinook.

Delta Monitoring

In the last two weeks one older juvenile and one adclipped Chinook were caught. A few splittail were also recovered.

Sacramento Kodiak Trawl - 6 sample days, 60 samples. No species of interest.

Lower Sacramento River seine - 2 sample days, 8 samples. FWS caught 1 splittail and no other species of interest.

Sacramento Area seine – 6 sample days, 43 samples.

FWS caught one older juvenile Chinook and one splittail.

North Delta seine - 2 sample days, 11 samples. No species of interest.

Central Delta seine - 2 sample days, 17 samples. No species of interest.

South Delta seine - 2 sample days, 13 samples. No species of interest.

Mossdale Kodiak Trawl - 6 sample days, 60 samples. No species of interest.

San Joaquin River seine - 2 sample days, 8 samples. No species of interest.

Chipps Island Midwater Trawl - 6 sample days, 76 samples. FWS caught one adclipped Chinook and on splittail. The adclipped Chinook was released this last spring by Mokelumne River Hatchery in Suisun Bay.

Bay seine - 2 sample days, 8 samples. No species of interest.

Delta Action 8 – This year the Delta Action 8 experiment will have two release groups. The first release will be in December with the DCC open, if possible. The second release will be in January with the gates closed. Both CWT and acoustic tags (420 total) will be used again this year. FWS will release the CWT Chinook at Georgiana Slough, Ryde, and Port Chicago. The acoustically tagged Chinook will be released at Sacramento and Georgiana Slough.

Spring Surrogate Releases – The November and December release groups of Coleman Hatchery late-fall Chinook will be combined again this year. The Chinook will be released in Battle Creek in late November about a week prior to the start of Delta Action 8. The January release group will be released in mid-January as usual.

Delta Smelt Monitoring

FMWT – The October FMWT survey has been completed and the October delta smelt index is 4. DFG caught 4 delta smelt. One smelt was caught in Grizzly Bay and

the rest were caught at stations in the lower Sacramento River. Erin Gleason (DFG) distributed the Delta Smelt recovery index after the DAT call. Based on September and October 2007 FMWT data, none of the Distributional or Abundance criteria were met for 2007. The Abundance criteria catch, also referred to as the Recovery Index, is 5 and the two year average is 13.

In order to meet Distributional criteria, delta smelt must be observed in 2 out of 11 North Central Delta stations, 5 out of 9 Sacramento River and Montezuma Slough stations, and 6 out of 15 Suisun Bay stations. In order to meet Abundance criteria, delta smelt catch at these stations must be greater than 239 in two out of five years, and the two year average must not fall below 84. Table 1 has the values for both the Distributional and Abundance criteria for 2006 and 2007.

Year	Distributional Criteria			Abundance Criteria		Water Year Type
	North Central Delta	Sacramento River and Montezuma Slough	Suisun Bay			
	2 stations	5 stations	6 stations	Index	2yr Avg	
2006	1	3	5	21	13	Wet
2007	**0**	**2**	**1**	**5**	**13**	**Dry**

Table 1. Delta smelt recovery metrics as described in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta native fishes recovery plan (USFWS 1995) for 2006 and 2007.

The November FMWT survey will start on November 5th.

DSWG – At this time the DSWG does not have any meetings schedule but will meet as needed this season.

<u>Salvage Facilities</u>

Chinook – None.

Steelhead – None.

Delta smelt – None.

Splittail – None.

Longfin smelt - None.

Sturgeon – None.

After the last DAT call on October 16th, CVP reported a high salvage of threadfin shad. The initial salvage estimate was higher than the actual daily salvage of approximately 250,000. The salvage of threadfin shad decreased the next day and remains low. High entrainment events such as this are not unprecedented.

The DFG Salvage Database is available on the DFG ftp site (ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/).

Head of Old River and Agricultural Barriers

HORB - On September 27th DFG requested the DWR install the fall HORB to improve dissolved oxygen concentrations into the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel for salmon. Installation of the barrier began on October 8th and was closed on October 18th.

Ag. Barriers – The Grantline and Middle River barriers are operating tidally. The Old River barrier has 6 flap gates tied open and 3 are operating tidally. All of the barriers were notched in mid-September for salmon passage.

Operations

SWP -

CCFB – 2,500cfs.

Oroville - 2,450cfs.
X2 - > 81 km.
E/I - 3-day ~54%
San Luis - ~484taf. SWP share of San Luis capacity is 1,062 taf.

EWA - As of end of September, the debt for SWP is approximately 44taf and for CVP is approximately 22taf.

CVP -

Tracy PP - 4,300cfs.

DCC - open.
Trinity - 300cfs.

Clear Creek - 200cfs.
Keswick – 5,600cfs.
Nimbus – 1,250cfs.
Goodwin – 575cfs. Releases will decrease to 240cfs by the end of the week.
San Luis - 317taf. CVP share of San Luis capacity is 966 taf.

Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 8,951cfs.
Fremont Weir ~ 0.
San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 2,304cfs.
Delta Outflow ~ 3,087cfs. The 7-day average is 3,542cfs.

Delta Water Quality

The Delta is in balanced conditions. Water quality is okay.

November Water Quality Standards –

Delta Outflow – monthly average >= 4,500cfs, 7-day average >= 3,500cfs.

Delta Cross Channel – The gates may be closed for up to 45 days for the protection of Chinook between November 1st and January 31st.

E/I Ratio – 65%

Rio Vista – monthly average >= 4,500cfs, 7-day average >= 3,500cfs.

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.

South Delta – 30-day average EC <= 1.0.

Suisun Marsh = Eastern EC <= 15.5mS/cm; Western EC <= 16.5mS/cm.

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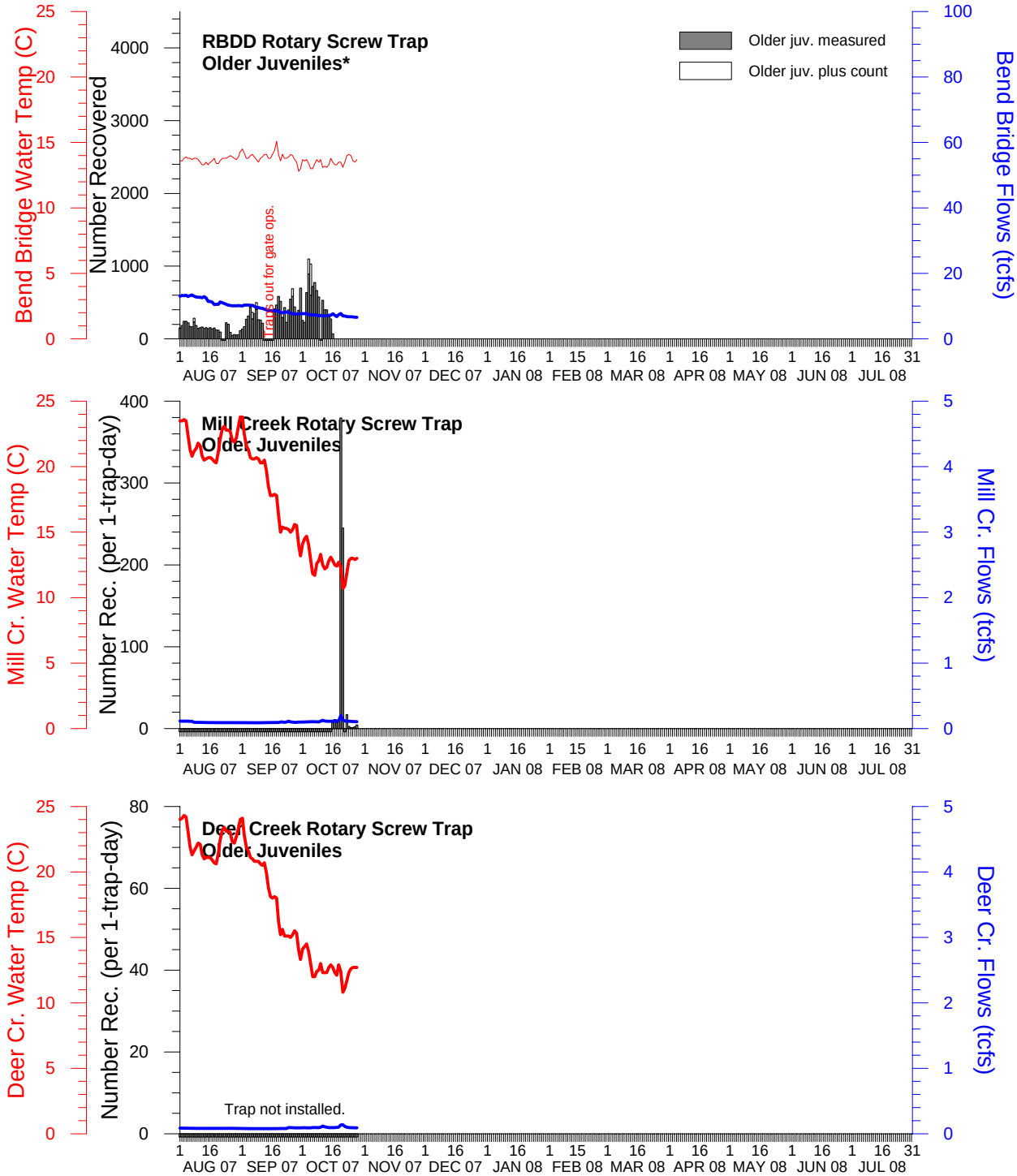
NUMBER OF JUVENILE CHINOOK MEASURED IN THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER & TRIBUTARIES



DWR-DES 30 OCT 2007
Preliminary, subject to revision
*Older juveniles defined as all Chinook above the minimum winter run length line (Frank Fisher model)

Data Acquisition:

All the data is preliminary and subject to revision.

The catch data for RBDD, Sacramento River Trawl, Sacramento Area Beach Seine, and Chipps Island were obtained from the BDAT website: http://baydelta.ca.gov .

The catch data for Mill and Deer creeks were obtained directly from DFG, Red Bluff Juvenile Salmon Monitoring Project.

The catch data for Knights Landing were obtained directly from DFG, Native Anadromous Fish & Watershed Branch.

The hydrology data were obtained from either the CDEC or BDAT websites: http://cdec.water.ca.gov or http://baydelta.ca.gov.

Project Offices:

Mill Creek - DFG, Red Bluff Juvenile Salmon Monitoring Project

Deer Creek - DFG, Red Bluff Juvenile Salmon Monitoring Project

RBDD - USFWS, Red Bluff Fish & Wildlife Office

Knights Landing - DFG, Native Anadromous Fish & Watershed Branch

Sacramento Trawl - USFWS, Stockton Office Juvenile Salmon Monitoring

Sacramento Area Beach Seine - USFWS, Stockton Office Juvenile Salmon Monitoring Project

Chipps Island Trawl - USFWS, Stockton Office Juvenile Salmon Monitoring Project