

Summary of DAT Conference Call 1/6/2009

Participants: SGreene(DWR), NHindman(FWS), JSpeegle(FWS), JWhite(DWR), FCarillo(FWS), LBartoo(FWS), EGleason(DFG), AChu(DWR), GAasen(DFG), SKong(CCWD), TBoardman(DMWA), JSnow(WWD), (SCWD), BOppenheim(NMFS), RSitts(MWD), MFord(DWR)

Conclusions and Recommendation

The Delta Smelt Fall Midwater Trawl Index for 2008 is 23, the lowest on record. The Longfin Smelt Fall Midwater Trawl Index for 2008 is 139, the fifth lowest on record.

DFG started the smelt larval survey on 1/5/2009. The survey will be repeated every two weeks. The Spring Kodiak Trawl, for adults will start 1/12/2009. The trawl will be repeated once per month. The results of each will be posted to a DFG website when available.

No operational changes were recommended at this time.

Next DAT Conference Call Tuesday, 1/13/2009, 9:00 am - 11:00 pm. 916/657-4111.

Chinook Monitoring

Upper Sacramento River

Red Bluff Diversion Dam -

Juvenile winter run passage averaged 121/day for the past week.

Late fall Chinook passage averaged 26/day, spring run passage averaged 134/day, fall run passage averaged 24,637/day, and steelhead passage was zero.

Red Bluff flow is 4,500 cfs and the water is clear. FWS did not observe much response to the latest small storm in terms of flow, turbidity or fish catch.

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 caught 1 spring run yearling and 4 fry.
The flow increased slightly on 1/3/2009 during the small storm that passed through.

Deer Creek – DFG started the trap on 12/31/2008. They caught 2 spring run yearlings. The flow increased slightly on 1/3/2009 during the small storm that passed through.

Butte Creek – no report

GCID –

Knights Landing – DFG caught 33 older juvenile Chinook and 35 young of the year. Almost all of these (61) plus 5 ad-clipped Chinook, the first this season, were caught on 12/31/08, then the catch decreased again. No steelhead were caught this week. Flow didn't change much over the last week. Turbidity increased to 53 NTU on 12/29, but has decreased to 8 NTU.

Delta Monitoring

FWS caught 1 older juvenile Chinook in the lower Sacramento River seines; 2 young of the year in the Sacramento Area seines and 1 older juvenile and 2 ad-clips in the Sacramento Trawl.

They also caught 2 ad-clip Chinook, 1 splittail and 17 longfin smelt at Chipps Island. No other species of special interest were caught in the rest of the monitoring.

Delta Smelt Monitoring

DFG finished the Fall Midwater trawl for the year. They caught 3 delta smelt in December in the lower Sacramento River area. That resulted in a December index of 4 and an annual index of 23. That is the lowest delta smelt fall midwater trawl annual index on record. They caught 46 longfin smelt in December spread throughout the bay. That resulted in a December index of 77, and an annual index of 139. That is the 5th lowest longfin smelt fall midwater trawl annual index.

Salvage Facilities

Chinook – The first winter run length Chinook was salvaged at the CVP on 12/30/08. There were none at the SWP. The combined season total non-clipped winter run length loss is 8.

Steelhead – None
Delta smelt – None
Splittail – None
Longfin smelt - None
Green Sturgeon – None

1 mitten crab was salvaged at the CVP on 1/3/2009.

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

Coleman Late Fall Hatchery releases

FWS has been releasing their late fall production release over a range of dates. The following releases have been made so far.

Release Date	~ Release
12/16/08	156,000
12/30/08	400,000
1/6/09	464,000

FWS will be releasing their steelhead production next week.

Release Dates	~Release
1/7/09 – 1/15/09	665,000

Operations

SWP -

CCFB – 2,500 cfs
Oroville - 950 cfs
X2 - > 81 km
E/I - 14-day ~42.3%
San Luis - ~282 taf, capacity is 1,062 taf

CVP -

Jones PP – 2,800 cfs
DCC - closed
Trinity – 300 cfs
Clear Creek – 200 cfs
Keswick – 3,500cfs
Nimbus – 900 cfs
Goodwin – 175 cfs
San Luis - 250 taf. Capacity is 966 taf

Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 9,237 cfs
San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 1,129 cfs
Delta Outflow ~ 4,700 cfs
OMR 14-day average -2,282 cfs, 5-day average is
-3,775 cfs

Delta Water Quality

Water quality is getting better at Jersey Point but continues under monitoring at Bethel, Holland and Bacon. Currently, exports are restricted by monthly outflow Standards. Water quality in the South delta remains in the similar condition as previous week.

The 3-day average turbidity at three stations (Prisoners Point, Holland Cut, and Victoria Canal) is 5.13 NTU.

January Quality Standards –

Delta Outflow – monthly average \geq 4,500cfs, 7-day average \geq 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%

Contra Costa Canal – CI \leq 250 mg/L. In addition, CI \leq 150 mg/L for 165 days per year. This portion of the standard was met in 2008 and started again January 1, 2009.

South Delta – 30-day average EC \leq 1.0.

Western Suisun Marsh - \leq 15.6 mS/cm.

Final copies of the DAT notes are now available on the CALFED Operations website at <http://www.woco.water.ca.gov/calfedops/datsummaries.html>.

Sheila Greene

Staff Environmental Scientist
CA Department of Water Resources
Division of Environmental Services
901 P Street, 444
Sacramento, CA 95814
916/651-9784 voice
916/651-9563 fax