

DAT Conference Call Summary 11/13/2009

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Summary and Conclusions

This was our second DAT call for the season; therefore it included a summary since October of this year.

Chinook

Most of the Chinook catch has been at Red Bluff, as typical for this time of year. Juvenile winter run peaked in September and October, as usual, and decreased now. The catch of juvenile winter run at Red Bluff is about 4.2 million to date which is unusually high relative to the previous estimated adult escapement. I don't have an explanation at this time.

Downstream of Red Bluff, there was a brief period of Chinook catch associated with the unusual, tropical storm in mid-October. Most of the runoff from this storm was on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, therefore there was only a small increase in flow on Mill and Deer creeks. The trap on Mill Creek was operating but the trap on Deer Creek was no operating due to low flows. On one day, 21 yearling spring run were caught on Mill Creek, otherwise the catch has been sporadic.

Knights Landing and the Sacramento Area trawl and seines are the stations we watch to trigger the first protective action for juvenile Chinook; closing the DCC. Associated with the storm, we exceeded the Knights Landing criterion to close the DCC on 10/21/09, and we closed the DCC for 3 days. Afterward, we exceeded the criterion at the Sacramento Area seines two more times, but the DCC was already scheduled to be closed for the Rio Vista flow standard.

Since then, juvenile Chinook catches have decreased to almost 0 per day at all the lower Sacramento River locations. Recently the air temperature has decreased to less than 13 degrees C, which more suitable to juvenile Chinook emigration, therefore we expect to see juvenile catch in the lower Sacramento River locations with the next storm events.

The Delta Action 8 experiments are scheduled for the first and third weeks in December. The release locations are Elkhorn Ferry in West Sacramento and Georgiana Slough. The fish will be acoustic tagged. The first experiment will be with the DCC gates open and the second with the DCC gates closed. NMFS is reviewing the plan.

The DOSS summaries will be posted on the NMFS website in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, they will be posted on the CALFED Ops site.

Chinook monitoring data can be found at DWR OCO CALFED Ops website below.

http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfed_monitoring.cfm

Delta Smelt

The September and October Fall Midwater trawls are complete and the results available. The November trawl was recently completed and the data are being analyzed. The December trawl is scheduled for the first week in December. For the September trawl, the catch was 2, and the index was 1. For the October trawl, the catch was 4 and the index was 3. The Delta Smelt Recovery Index is 1; it is based on a subset of trawl stations and includes distributional information. This recovery index is the lowest on record. Last year was the second lowest on record; recovery index of 2. And 2005 was the third lowest on record; recovery index of 4. The Delta Smelt Recovery index is not posted; therefore the historical data set is attached to this summary. DFG will post the fall midwater trawl data sometime after the first of 2010.

Operations

The daily operations summary can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/deltaops.cfm>

The critical operations standards in November are Delta Outflow and Rio Vista Flow (4,500 cfs monthly average and 3,500 cfs 7-day average).

DCC was closed for a day or two twice during the last few weeks to augment Rio Vista flow. They are scheduled to close again on Thursday until nearly the end of the month.

The CVP is scheduled to reduce Delta exports from 3,000 cfs to 2,000 cfs to augment Delta Outflow. The SWP is scheduled to maintain its 1,000 cfs.

We will be moving the DAT Conference Call again; to Thursdays at 11 am. The phone number will be the same 916/657-4108 except for the first call on 12/3/09. The DAT call next week, 11/26/09, is cancelled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Next DAT Conference Call Thursday, 12/3/2009, 11:00 am. The temporary phone number is 916/574-2008.

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