

DAT notes for March 15, 2012

Attendees: Edmund Yu and Loi Tran (DWR), Lucinda Shih and Shing Kong (CCWD), Geir Aasen and Lauren Damon (CDFG), Leigh Bartoo (FWS), Owen Lu and RG Fernando(MWD), Tom Boardman (SLDMWA), Allison Febbo and Terry Erlewine (SWC)

Salmonid Monitoring

Species*	Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST	Tisdale Weir RST	Knights Landing RST
Date	2/26/2012 to 3/10/2012	3/8/2012 to 3/14/2012	3/8/2012 to 3/14/2012
CHNF	268,842	1	2
CHNLF			
CHNW	435		
CHNS	5,488	1	1
CHN hatchery			
SH wild	25		
SH hatchery			1
*Chinook race based on length; CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS=Spring run, SH = Steelhead			

A summary of Chinook monitoring data can be found at:
<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>

Delta Monitoring

Trawl and Seine Report for 3/4/2012 to 3/10/2012				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale KDTR	Sacramento KDTR	Chippis Is MWTR
CHNF	162			
CHNLF				
CHNW				3
CHNS	2			
CHN hatchery				
SH wild				
SH hatchery			4	4
DSM			1	15 (61-85mm, 2 w/eggs)
LFS				4 (95-120 mm, 1 w/milt, 1 w/eggs)
SPLT	5	2		1
*Chinook race based on length; CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS=Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail				

Salvage

Salmonids - Salvage report for 3/5/2012 to 3/11/2012								
Species	CVP				SWP			
	Adipose Clip Hatchery		Non-Adipose Clip Wild		Adipose Clip Hatchery		Non-Adipose Clip Wild	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF							4	16
Total to Date							4	16
CHNLF								
Total to Date	24	20	19	14				
CHNW	3	3	43	38	21	89	164	708
Total to Date	177	133	104	87	197	876	237	1033
CHNS			4	3				
Total to Date			4	3				
SH	32	22	8	5	32	139		
Total to Date	114	78	14	10	75	325	16	69

Chinook race based on length; Adipose fin clips indicates hatchery stock; Non-adipose clip indicates natural origin. SWP steelhead loss = salvage x 4.33, CVP steelhead loss = salvage x 0.68.

Smelts and Others – Salvage report for 3/5/2012 to 3/11/2012				
Species	CVP		SWP	
	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM	12	98	28	88
LFS	44	56	12	12
SPLT	12	235	8	3,818
GST				
WST		64		

DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail, GST=Green sturgeon, WST=White sturgeon

No larval delta smelt < 20 mm FL were reported in larval fish samples through 3/11/2012 at the federal facility and through 0900 hours on 3/8/2012 at the state facility.

Larval longfin smelt were found in larval fish samples at the federal facility during the period from 3/5/2012 to 3/11/2012 and at the state facility during the period from 2100 hours on 3/1/2012 to 0900 hours on 3/8/2012. Since Sunday, both facilities have continued to salvage longfin smelt.

Salvage information is posted at <ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/> (you can also try <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx> and click on "salvage FTP site"). Chinook salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon salvage data is located in the tables under the folder "DOSS salvage tables". Smelt salvage data is located under the folder "Daily Smelt Summary".

Smelt Monitoring

Spring Kodiak Trawl #3 was completed on March 8. It was a partial survey, so CDFG only sampled at 28 of the 40 stations. Based on preliminary results, most of the delta smelt are still pre-spawning. Full results on stage, number spent, and sex will be reported later since the data is still being QA/QC'd. After the DAT call, CDFG reported a total of 294 delta smelt caught at 10 of the stations.

Spring Kodiak Trawl #4 was originally scheduled on April 16, but is now scheduled for April 2. Spring Kodiak Trawl data will be posted at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SKT>.

Smelt Larva Survey #5 was completed on March 8. It was a partial survey, so 25 of the 35 normal stations were sampled. There were 1,515 longfin smelt larvae. The highest catches were downstream of the confluence.

Smelt Larva Survey #6 is scheduled for March 19. Smelt Larva Survey data will be posted at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SLS>.

The 20 mm Survey #1 began this week on March 12 and #2 is scheduled on March 26. The 20 mm Survey data will be posted at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm>.

Smelt Working Group

The Smelt Working Group met again on Monday (March 12) to review hydrological conditions, monitoring data, and existing constraints from the pumps. No recommendations were made. The existing conditions are sufficient, so no changes in operations are necessary for both longfin and delta smelt.

DOSS

The DOSS working group met on Tuesday (March 13) and advises to continue implementing RPA Action IV.2.3 (OMR flow of no more negative than -2,500 cfs) until there are 3 consecutive days below the loss-density trigger for older juvenile Chinook loss density. Based on Monday's preliminary data, the earliest that the action could be relaxed would be Thursday, March 15. No change in operations is necessary until then. DOSS will review the salvage data on Thursday and determine whether to continue the action.

On Thursday morning, the preliminary loss density for Wednesday (March 14) came in well below the 5.0 fish/TAF criteria for the second stage trigger in the NMFS BiOp. This is the third day below the second stage trigger (Monday at 4.03 fish/TAF and Tuesday at 4.0 fish/TAF); therefore, the OMR criteria can be relaxed to no more negative than -3,500 pursuant to RPA Action IV.2.3. The projects are scheduling a change in operations starting on Saturday, March 17.

Lastly, DOSS also advises clarifying last week's (March 6) advice to reflect that a new 5-day action had not occurred, but rather the action was a continuation of the second-stage (-2,500 cfs OMR flow) action that began on February 24.

Operations

Summary for March 15, 2012			
SWP		CVP	
Clifton Court (cfs)	600	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	2,000
Outflow (cfs)	12,000	American - Nimbus (cfs)	1,100
Feather - Oroville (cfs)	1,750	Sacramento - Keswick (cfs)	3,700
San Luis Total (TAF)	1,714	Stanislaus - Goodwin (cfs)	
San Luis Share (TAF)	988	San Luis Share (TAF)	
X2 (Km)	79		
E/I (%)	20.9		
OMR (daily)			
OMR 5 day (cfs)	-2,549		
OMR 14 day (cfs)	-2,079		

Daily operations summary can be viewed at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>

Given that OMR is going to be relaxed, DWR is thinking about increasing exports by an extra 200 to 400 cfs. By Friday, Clifton Court inflow might be at 800 to 1,000 cfs, but this is currently in discussion at DWR.

On the CVP side, USBR is set to increase its pumping to approximately 2,800 cfs on Saturday.

Vernalis is projected to be at around 1,700 cfs, which is a slight increase from yesterday. Based on the guidance plots, it might peak out at about 1,800 cfs.

After the DAT call, an update on the construction of the Head of Old River Barrier (HORB) was e-mailed out to the DAT e-mail reflector. The construction of the HORB began on March 14. The contractor expects to complete the construction by the target date of April 1.

Next meeting: The next DAT conference call is scheduled for March 22, 2012 at 11:00am.