

Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
10/25/12 at 11:00 a.m.

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Geir Aasen (DFG), Andy Chu, Edmund Yu, James Gleim, Kevin Reece and Wenli Yin (DWR), Leigh Bartoo (FWS), RG Fernando (MWD), Barb Byrne (NMFS), Ron Silva (USBR).

Announcements

- Angela Llaban is no longer with DWR. Edmund Yu will serve as the temporary DAT facilitator until a replacement has been found. In the meantime, Kevin Reece will serve as the backup facilitator and the other DAT representatives from the last water year will remain the same.
- The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will be renamed to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CAL WILD) on 1/1/13.

Sacramento River Salmonid Monitoring

Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report			
Species*	FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)	DFG Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)***	DFG Knights Landing RST (Catch)
Date	10/7/12 to 10/20/12	10/8/12 to 10/24/12	10/9/12 to 10/22/12
CHNF	456		
CHNLF	2,810		
CHNW	275,337		1 (on 10/16)
CHNS	18,685**		
CHN hatchery			
SH wild	2,296		
SH hatchery			
*Chinook race based on length; CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS=Spring run, SH = Steelhead. All data are preliminary and subject to change.			

**Brood year 2012 for spring-run Chinook salmon began on 10/16 based on the length at date criteria (Greene 1992). The spring-run estimated total for brood year 2011 was 181,008.

***As of 10/24, there has been no Chinook salmon caught at the Tisdale Weir RST since 9/14, where one winter-run Chinook salmon was caught.

A graphical summary of the Sacramento River salmonid monitoring data can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>. In addition, biweekly juvenile salmonid monitoring reports for the Red Bluff Diversion Dam can be found at http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx.

Delta Fish Monitoring

FWS Trawl and Seine Report for smelt and splittail from 10/14/12 to 10/20/12				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl	Sacramento Trawl	Chippis Island Trawl
DSM	1 (62mm, Liberty Island)			2 (60mm, no expression)
LFS				
SPLT				1
*DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail. All data are preliminary and subject to change.				

FWS Trawl and Seine Report for salmonids from 10/14/12 to 10/20/12				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl	Sacramento Trawl	Chippis Isand Trawl
CHNA				1
CHNF				
CHNLF				
CHNW				
CHNS				
CHN hatchery				
SH wild				
SH hatchery				

*Chinook race based on length; CHNA= Adult, CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead. All data are preliminary and subject to change.

The Delta fish monitoring data from FWS are also posted online at <http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/datamanagement.asp>.

Salvage Monitoring

As of 10/24, no Chinook salmon, steelhead, green surgeon, longfin smelt, or delta smelt have been salvaged at the state and federal fish facilities since the start of the water year on 10/1. Weekly salvage updates from DFG will be sent out again once the fish facilities start recovering listed species.

From what DFG normally reports, only four splittail have been salvaged at the state fish facility. Currently, the salvage is predominantly made up of other species, such as shad and stripers. In addition, a few white catfish and a few silverside have also been salvaged.

As a reminder, a copy of the DFG salvage database is posted on the salvage FTP website (<ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>) in the "Salvage_data_FTP.zip" file. If you cannot access the FTP site, you can also go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx> and click on "Salvage FTP Site."

This water year, there is a new feature in the salvage database. The database now includes coded-wire tag (CWT) numbers. DFG started storing CWT data during the last water year and will continue to do so.

Smelt Monitoring

Lauren Damon of DFG will send out the Fall Midwater Trawl data from September and October early next week. Please contact Lauren (ldamon@dfg.ca.gov) directly with any questions.

The latest DFG survey updates can also be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/data/>.

2012 Long-term Operations Opinions Annual Review (2012 annual review)

The 2012 annual review is scheduled for next week on Wednesday (10/31) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Thursday (11/1) from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Park Tower Conference Center (980 Ninth Street, Second Floor, Sacramento, California 95814). The Wednesday agenda will include presentations related to Clear Creek operations, the Joint Stipulation Sentinel Steelhead Study from last spring, the 2011 Vernalis Adaptive Management Program (VAMP) Study, and a presentation about adding migratory behaviors to particle tracking. Afterwards, the annual review panel will give initial impressions and feedback on Thursday afternoon to the agencies participating in the annual review. For more information about the annual review, please visit the Delta Stewardship Council's 2012 annual review website:

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/events/science-program-review/2012-long-term-operations-opinions-annual-review-0>.

Smelt Working Group

The Smelt Working Group has not met yet and will not be meeting until November. The first meeting in November will most likely be a shakedown meeting and a follow-up meeting will occur in early December. The Smelt Working Group will not be a main feature of the annual review.

Smelt Working Group notes are posted at http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm.

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

DOSS had its first meeting of the season on Tuesday (10/23) and reviewed the usual monitoring data. The numbers have been good for fall-run Chinook salmon coming back, but we know less about the summary of the spring-run Chinook salmon information. In addition, winter-run Chinook salmon are doing better than last year, but still not very high.

In terms of juvenile outmigration, DOSS is currently tracking the 2009 NMFS BiOp RPA actions that are in place at the moment or will be in place soon. An overview is described below:

- RPA Action IV.1.1 ([see page 60 on the 2009 NMFS BiOp RPA with 2011 amendments](#)): This action requires monitoring of flows in Sacramento tributaries and at Wilkins Slough, and water temperature at Knights Landing, as early alerts used to indicate that changes to the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gate operations may be required soon.
- RPA Action IV.1.2 ([see page 62 on the 2009 NMFS BiOp RPA with 2011 amendments](#)): This action, which may modify DCC gate operations based on different triggers, is in effect from 10/1 through 6/15. Within this period, different phases contain different triggers and action responses. The first phase is from 10/1 to 11/30 and the DCC gates may be closed if the Knights Landing Catch Index or the Sacramento Catch Index is greater than 3 fish per day. However, there is a potential off ramp to the trigger based on water quality if the D-1641 water criteria are not met. Thus, the DCC gates may not be closed under a certain circumstance even if the catch index component has been met. Currently, Chinook salmon catch is low (usually 0) at the Knights Landing RST and the Sacramento River trawl/seines, so no triggers have been met.
- RPA Action IV.3 ([see page 79 on the 2009 NMFS BiOp RPA with 2011 amendments](#)): This action is in effect from 11/1 through 12/31. If a certain older juvenile Chinook loss density trigger is met during this period, the required action response is a reduction in exports for at least three days.

DOSS notes are posted at <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>.

Operations

Summary for 10/25/12			
State Water Project (SWP)		Central Valley Project (CVP)	
Clifton Court (cfs)	3,500	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	3,500
Outflow (cfs)	~7,700	American - Nimbus (cfs)	1,800
Feather - Oroville (cfs)	2,400	Sacramento - Keswick (cfs)	6,750
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of midnight	649		
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of midnight	304		
X2 (Km)	>81		
E/I (%)	44.9 (3 day average)		

Expected exports for the next few days: The combined exports between the SWP and CVP will remain around 7,000 cfs for the next few days. Around next Monday, exports will be lower at around 6,000 cfs

(the pre-precipitation level). In addition, there will be a power outage on Sunday (10/28) at the CVP for about 12 hours in the early morning to the afternoon. Because of this, there will be no exports at the CVP for a portion of Sunday. However, combined exports will remain at a similar range since DWR is working with USBR to pick up the difference in exports.

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

Next Meeting: The next DAT conference call will be on 11/8 at 11:00 a.m. There will be no conference call next week on 11/1 due to the 2012 annual review. In place of a conference call, e-mail updates will be sent out to the DAT reflector if there are any major changes to fish monitoring or to operations.