

**DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
11/15/12 at 11:00 a.m.**

Participants: Geir Aasen (DFG), Edmund Yu, Kevin Reece and Loi Tran (DWR), Bill Poytress (FWS), RG Fernando (MWD), Barb Byrne (NMFS), Tom Boardman (SLDMWA), Ron Silva (Reclamation)

Sacramento River Salmonid Monitoring

There was no biweekly report from FWS this week on the estimated passage of Chinook salmon and steelhead at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. However, Bill Poytress (FWS) gave a preliminary update and mentioned how FWS saw another pulse of winter-run Chinook salmon at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam since the last biweekly report from 11/3. The next biweekly report will be out next week and will be part of the weekly salmonid monitoring update that will be sent out to DAT.

In addition, there were no Chinook salmon or steelhead caught at the Tisdale Weir or Knights Landing rotary screw traps from 11/7 to 11/14. On 11/12, flow at Wilkins Slough was at 3,903 cfs and water temperature at Knights Landing was at 54°F. Both flow and water temperature has decreased since last Monday (11/5), where flow at Wilkins Slough was at 4,976 cfs and water temperature at Knights Landing was at 61°F.

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 caught no Chinook salmon, steelhead, longfin smelt, delta smelt, or splittail for the reporting period of 11/4 to 11/10 at the beach seines or trawls.

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

Salvage Monitoring

As of 11/14, no listed species have been salvaged at either fish facility since the start of water year 2013 on 10/1. However, a non-adipose fin clipped Chinook salmon (311mm FL) was recovered at the federal fish facility on 11/8. No race could be assigned according to the length-at-date criteria using the Delta model since the salmon was over 300mm in FL. As a result, DFG did not classify the Chinook salmon as an older juvenile for the loss density calculation.

Furthermore, the state facility shut down pumping and salvage since Tuesday afternoon (11/13) due to a pipeline inspection and will start up again today (11/15).

Salvage information is posted on the salvage FTP website (<ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>). 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."

Winter-Run Salvage Genetic Results

Kevin Reece (DWR) went over the preliminary genetic results of the winter-run Chinook salmon that were salvaged in water year 2011 and 2012. At the federal fish facility, genetic tissue samples were taken in 2011 from about 40% of the winter-run Chinook salmon salvaged in the size class. Of those sampled, 33.33% of the fish assigned to the winter-run Chinook size class were truly winter-run Chinook salmon. In 2012, all Chinook salmon salvaged in the winter-run size class at the federal fish facility were collected for genetic tissue samples. From these samples, 23.36% of the fish assigned to the winter-run Chinook size class were truly winter-run Chinook salmon.

At the state fish facility, genetic tissue samples were taken in 2011 from about 99.6% of the winter-run Chinook salmon salvaged in the size class. Of those sampled, 33.59% of the fish assigned to the winter-

run Chinook size class were truly winter-run Chinook salmon. In 2012, about 96% of the Chinook salmon salvaged in the winter-run size class at the state fish facility were collected for genetic tissue samples. From these samples, 41.51% of the fish assigned to the winter-run Chinook size class were truly winter-run Chinook salmon.

Based on these preliminary results, DWR and Reclamation were well beneath the incidental take level that was permitted for each water year for winter-run Chinook salmon even if the take limit was at 1% of the juvenile production estimate. In addition, DWR and Reclamation are still in the process of analyzing a subset of the Chinook salmon that were classified outside of the winter-run Chinook salmon size class. Once the data comes in, Kevin Reece will report the genetic results out to DAT.

Smelt Monitoring

The 2012 November Fall Midwater Trawl was conducted from 11/5 to 11/15. Results will be available during the week of 11/26. For more information about the Fall Midwater Trawl, please visit the DFG website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=FMWT>.

Smelt Working Group

Leigh Bartoo, the FWS representative, was not able to call in to the DAT conference call. An e-mail update was sent out prior to the DAT call and there have been no new developments with the Smelt Working Group. An initial meeting should be scheduled soon.

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) Working Group

DOSS met this Tuesday (11/13), but did not have all the usual monitoring data due to the holiday on Monday (11/12). DOSS reviewed what was available and there were no recommendations made to NMFS or WOMT since none of the triggers have been exceeded. Things were still fairly quiet with the Chinook salmon monitoring. Since 10/1, DOSS has only seen one winter-run Chinook salmon at the Knights Landing rotary screw traps.

In addition, DOSS also received a genetics update from Kevin Reece, which was similar to what was presented at today's DAT conference call. Lastly, DOSS also discussed some potential changes to the DFG salvage database that might be helpful, but there were mix opinions on what needs to be done. DOSS will have to discuss these potential changes further and on how to proceed.

DOSS notes from the 11/13 meeting will be posted at <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>.

Operations

Summary for 11/15/12			
State Water Project (SWP)		Central Valley Project (CVP)	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	1,500	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	3,500
Outflow (cfs)	~3,700	American - Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,850
Feather - Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	2,400	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	6,000
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of midnight	707		
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of midnight	268		
X2 (km)	>81		
E/I (%)	35.1 (3-day average)		

Outflow: There was a question about the difference between the Delta outflow reported on the USBR Central Valley Operations (CVO) Office website (<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/doutdly.pdf>) and what was reported today at the DAT conference call. Loi Tran (DWR) helped clarify that the 3,700 cfs figure is based on what is expected for today (11/15), while the 5,643 cfs figure from the CVO website is the calculated value for yesterday (11/14). The calculated value on the CVO website should be around 3,700 cfs for today when the CVO Office updates the pdf document. All values are preliminary and subject to change.

Jones Pumping Plant: There was a question on why exports at the Jones Pumping Plant have decreased to 3,500 cfs. Loi Tran mentioned how exports went down to target the outflow requirements.

Weather Forecast: There was quite a bit of rain being forecasted for the next couple of days, so there was a question of how this will impact operations or fish monitoring. On the operations side, the rain will help with meeting the outflow requirements and with meeting the Rio Vista flow requirements. Currently, Rio Vista flows are approaching the minimum flow requirements in D-1641. As required in D-1641, the monthly average flow at Rio Vista needs to be greater than or equal to 4,500 cfs and the seven-day average needs to be greater than or equal to 3,500 cfs.

On the fish monitoring side, there might be some downstream movement of Chinook salmon on the Sacramento River if flows do come up and this might trigger an alert or an action response for the Delta Cross Channel gate operations or for export reductions.

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

Next Conference Call: There will be no conference call next week due to the holiday on Thursday. In place of a conference call, work group updates will be sent out to the DAT e-mail reflector next week.

The next conference call will be on 11/29 at 11:00 a.m. Barb Byrne, the NMFS representative from DOSS, will not be able to call in. However, a DOSS e-mail update will be sent out to the group prior to the DAT conference call on 11/29.