

**DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
12/20/12 at 11:00 a.m.**

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Bob Fujimura, Geir Aasen and Lauren Damon (DFG), Edmund Yu, Kevin Reece and Wenli Yin (DWR), Craig Anderson and Erin Gleason (FWS), Elizabeth Leeper (KMTG on behalf of SLDMWA), Owen Lu and RG Fernando (MWD)

Sacramento River Salmonid Monitoring

Preliminary 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	12/2/12 to 12/16/12	12/9/12 to 12/15/12	12/9/12 to 12/15/12
Wild CHNF	167,678	65	32
Wild CHNLF	7,083	9	8
Wild CHNW	42,445	129	97
Wild CHNS	11,766	31	41
Hatchery CHN	Not reported	12	21
Wild SH	718		
Hatchery SH	Not reported	4	

*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS=Spring run, SH = Steelhead; adipose fin clip indicates hatchery stock; non-adipose fin clip indicates wild origin.

**DFG hit its winter run Chinook salmon incidental take limit for the Tisdale Weir and for Knights Landing. Because of this, RSTs at these monitoring locations have been inactive since 12/15 and a restart date has not been determined. Currently, DFG are in the process of amending its Section 10 permit.

Graphical summaries of the monitoring data collected at the Sacramento River and at other locations can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>. In addition, the biweekly passage reports of juvenile salmonids sampled at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam are available at http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx.

Hatchery Release Update

The Coleman National Fish Hatchery released its first spring run surrogate group of approximately 77,221 late-fall Chinook salmon into Battle Creek on 12/18. The fork lengths for this group ranged from 80 mm to 222 mm. From this release, 72,974 were adipose clipped and coded wire tagged, 1,158 were adipose fin clipped with no coded wire tag, 3,089 were non-adipose fin clipped and coded wire tagged, and there were none that were non-adipose fin clipped with no coded wire tag.

In addition, the Coleman National Fish Hatchery updated its release information for the 11/29 late-fall run Chinook salmon production group. At a prior DAT call, it was reported that the Coleman National Fish Hatchery released 848,000 late-fall Chinook salmon into Battle Creek and that the group was 100% marked and coded wire tagged. An updated notification revealed that the Coleman National Fish Hatchery released 849,498 late-fall Chinook salmon in Battle Creek. The fork lengths for this group ranged from 66 mm to 296 mm. Of the number released, 805,842 were adipose fin clipped and coded wire tagged, 7,983 were adipose fin clipped with no coded wire tag, 29,394 were non-adipose fin clipped and coded wire tagged, and 6,279 were non-adipose fin clipped with no coded wire tag.

Since its release, late-fall run Chinook salmon from this 11/29 production group have been observed at the Delta fish salvage facilities, but there are no trigger levels associated with this group since it is only a production group.

Lastly, fall run Chinook salmon from the Mokelumne River Hatchery have been observed at the Delta fish salvage facilities. The fall run Chinook salmon were released on 11/5. From this release, 100,633 were tagged and 8,410 were untagged for a total release of 109,043.

Delta Fish Monitoring

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 12/9/12 to 12/15/12				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl	Sacramento to Trawl	Chippis Island Trawl
Wild CHNA	1		5	
Wild CHNF	80			1
Wild CHNLF	5			4
Wild CHNW	74			
Wild CHNS	65			
Hatchery CHN	8		5	10
Wild SH				
Hatchery SH				
DSM	1 (65 mm, Rio Vista)			9 (60 to 74 mm, no expression)
LFS				60
SPLT				28

*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNA= Adult, CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail; adipose fin clip indicates hatchery stock; non-adipose fin clip indicates wild origin.

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

Salvage Monitoring

Preliminary DFG Salvage Report for Salmonids from 12/10/12 to 12/16/12								
Species	Central Valley Project (CVP)				State Water Project (SWP)			
	Adipose Clipped (Hatchery)		Non-Adipose Clipped (Wild)		Adipose Clipped (Hatchery)		Non-Adipose Clipped (Wild)	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF	40	26			156	700	6	28
Total to Date	44	29	5	3	160	718	10	46
CHNLF	44	29	4	3	278	1,234	18	81
Total to Date	49	32	10	7	292	1,298	41	185
CHNW			4	3	25	111	16	69
Total to Date			8	5	25	111	20	88
CHNS								
Total to Date								
CHNU								
Total to Date			8	5				
SH							4	17
Total to Date			1	1			8	35

Notes:
 -Chinook race based on length (Delta model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, CHNU= Unknown race (Chinook greater than the length-at-date criteria), SH = Steelhead.
 -Salvage and loss estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish.
 -Documentation on how to calculate salvage and Chinook loss can be found at <ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/Salmon%20Loss%20Estimation/>.
 -Steelhead loss: SWP steelhead loss = salvage × 4.33 and CVP steelhead loss = salvage × 0.68.
 -Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013).

Since the reporting period and up to 12/19, the SWP and CVP fish facilities are seeing more or less the same trends in terms of Chinook salvage. In particular, the SWP and CVP fish facilities have salvaged a lot of hatchery Chinook salmon in the past few days. In addition, four steelhead were salvaged at the CVP fish facility on 12/18.

Preliminary DFG Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 12/10/12 to 12/16/12				
Species	CVP		SWP	
	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM	20 (first time this water year)	20	6 (first time this water year)	6
LFS				
SPLT		5	17	25
GST				
WST		4		

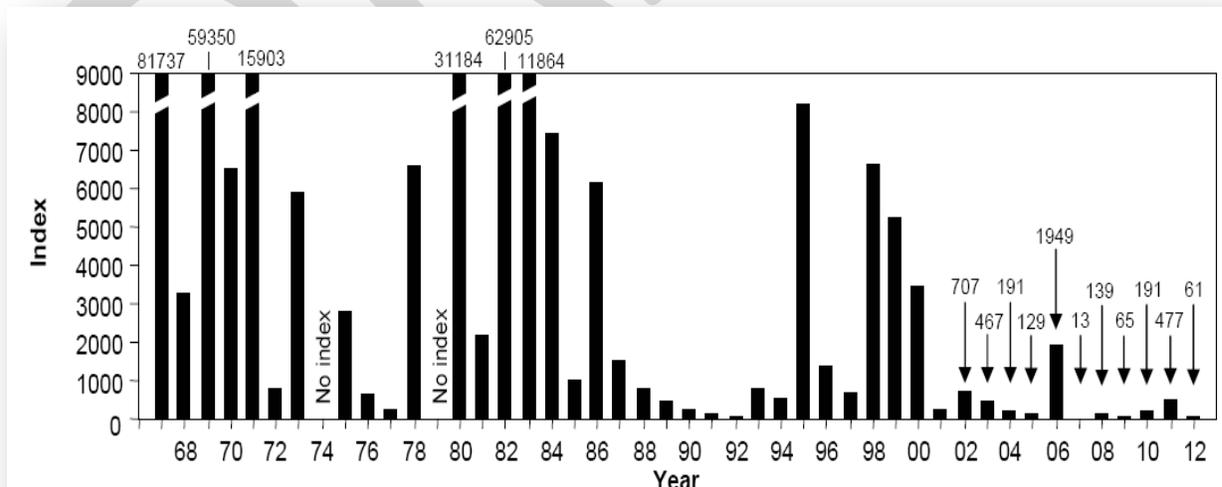
Notes:
 -DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail, GST=Green sturgeon, WST=White sturgeon.
 -Salvage estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish.
 -Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013).

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."

Smelt Monitoring

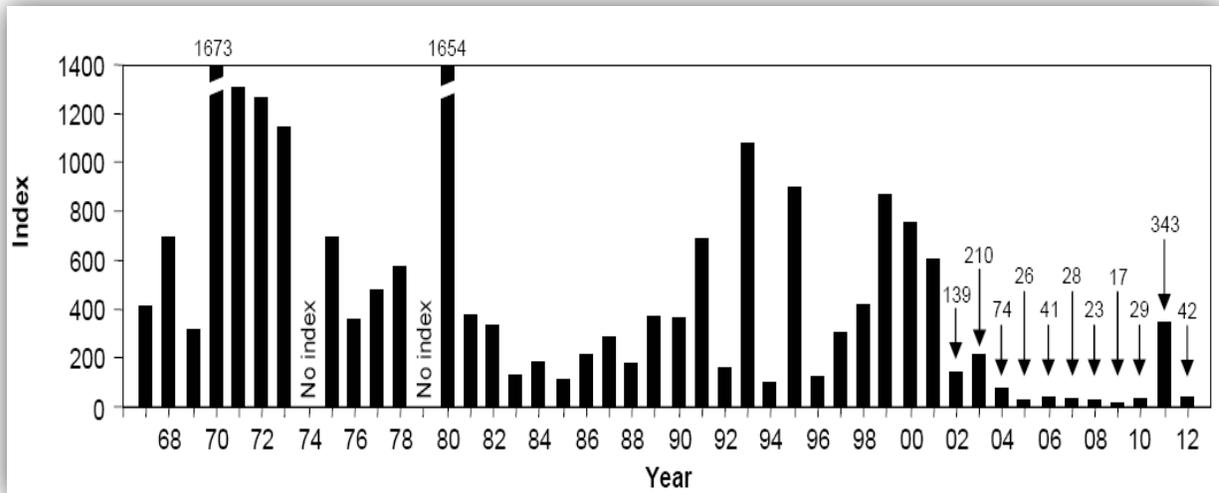
The 2012 Fall Midwater Trawl (FMWT) was completed on 12/12 and the indices for delta smelt, longfin smelt, striped bass, threadfin shad, and American shad are now available. Before the conference call, DFG e-mailed out the 2012 FMWT Memo to DAT with the results.

For the 2012 sampling season (i.e., September to December), DFG caught 35 longfin smelt at the index stations from San Pablo Bay through the lower Sacramento River for a longfin smelt index of 61. The 2012 longfin smelt index is one of the lowest in history since DFG started conducting the FMWT. A graphical summary of the annual longfin smelt indices since 1967 can be found below and is taken from the 2012 FMWT Memo:



At the non-index stations, DFG caught one longfin smelt in Cache Slough in December. In addition, DFG caught 37 delta smelt at the index stations from Suisun Bay through the lower Sacramento River for a

delta smelt index of 42. The 2012 delta smelt index is also very low when compared to past FMWT indices. A graphical summary of the annual delta smelt indices since 1967 can be found below and is taken from the 2012 FMWT Memo:



At the non-index stations, DFG caught eight delta smelt in the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel and one in Cache Slough for the 2012 sampling period.

For more information about the FMWT, please visit the DFG website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=FMWT>.

Smelt Working Group

The Smelt Working Group met last Friday (12/14) and this Monday (12/17). The Smelt Working Group's recommendation is to begin FWS RPA Component 1, Action 1 as soon as possible. Action 1 requires Old and Middle River (OMR) flow to be reduced to no more negative than -2,000 cfs for 14 days, with a concurrent 5-day running average of no more negative than -2,500 cfs.

The Smelt Working Group requested that FWS convene a Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) meeting and one was convened on Monday afternoon (12/17). FWS made a determination to change operations and followed the Smelt Working Group's recommendation.

After the Smelt Working Group update, there was a question about when Action 1 will start. Erin Gleason (FWS) mentioned that an e-mail was sent out yesterday to the WOMT reflector that stated the following: "The CVP and SWP have made changes to Project exports consistent with those necessary to target an OMR flow of -2,000 cfs beginning today (12/19). As of this morning, combined Project exports are approximately 2,500 cfs."

The 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 on Tuesday (12/18) and provided no recommendation to NMFS and WOMT based on the data that was available at the time of the meeting. The following day (12/19), NMFS was notified that the combined SWP/CVP loss of non-adipose fin clipped older juvenile Chinook salmon exceeded the 120 fish trigger in NMFS RPA Action IV.3. The action response required exports to be reduced to a combined 4,000 cfs for three days. However, no changes in operations were necessary since the SWP and CVP were already operating to FWS RPA Component 1, Action 1, which was more restrictive.

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

Operations

Preliminary Summary for 12/20/12			
SWP		CVP	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	1,500	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	1,000
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	405	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	651
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	1,056	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	7,000
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,750	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	4,500
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow	~ 29,000	E/I (%)	14.3% (14-day average)
X2 (km)	62		

There was a general question on whether OMR would hold at -2,000 cfs in January due to the 2008 FWS BiOp or the 2009 NMFS BiOp restrictions. From the 2008 FWS BiOp perspective, Erin Gleason (FWS) responded by saying that FWS RPA Component 1, Action 1 is a two week action, which will last until 1/1/13. Afterwards, FWS RPA Component 1, Action 2 begins and the action has an OMR range between -1,250 cfs and -5,000 cfs. The OMR range will be based on the weekly recommendations from the Smelt Working Group and the weekly recommendations will follow the guidance that is outlined in the 2008 FWS BiOp.

From the 2009 NMFS BiOp perspective, Edmund Yu (DWR) mentioned that NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 goes into effect starting in January and will require that the 14-day OMR average be no more negative than -5,000 cfs with the possibility of OMR going in more positive direction (i.e., -2,500 cfs or -3,500 cfs) if a fish trigger is hit.

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

Next Conference Call: The next DAT call is scheduled on 12/27 at 11:00 a.m.