

**DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes  
1/31/13 at 11:00 a.m**

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Geir Aasen and Lauren Damon (DFW), Andy Chu, Edmund Yu, Elaine Jeu, James Gleim and Wenli Yin (DWR), Craig Anderson, Jon Speegle and Leigh Bartoo (FWS), Elizabeth Leeper (KMTG on behalf of SLDMWA), RG Fernando (MWD), Tom Boardman (SLDMWA)

**Sacramento River Salmonid Monitoring**

<b>Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report</b>			
<b>Species*</b>	<b>FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)</b>	<b>DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)</b>	<b>DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>1/15/13 to 1/28/13</b>	<b>RSTs inactive since 12/15/12.</b>	
Wild CHNF	8,535,361**		
Wild CHNLF			
Wild CHNW	1,659***		
Wild CHNS	2,155		
Hatchery CHN	Not Reported		
Wild SH	47		
Hatchery SH	Not Reported		
*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. Data subject to revision.			

\*\*There has been an increase in fall run Chinook salmon passage and a decrease in passage for the other runs of Chinook salmon when compared to the last reporting period of 1/1 to 1/14. The brood year 2012 total for fall run Chinook salmon passage is now at 15,981,183 and the total is now greater than the totals from brood year 2007 to brood year 2011 when looking back at the passage data since brood year 2006.

\*\*\*There has been a huge decrease in passage for winter run Chinook salmon. The biweekly total went from 18,646 between 1/1 to 1/14 to 1,659 between 1/15 to 1/28. There has been no winter run Chinook salmon passage since 1/15.

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](http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx).

**Delta Fish Monitoring**

<b>Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 1/20/13 to 1/26/13</b>				
<b>Species*</b>	<b>Beach Seines</b>	<b>Mossdale Trawl</b>	<b>Sacramento to Trawl</b>	<b>Chippis Island Trawl</b>
Wild CHNF	585		7	
Wild CHNLF	1			
Wild CHNW	23			
Wild CHNS	36			
Hatchery CHN				
Wild SH				
Hatchery SH				6
DSM				13 (64 to 83 mm, no expression)
LFS				1 (125 mm, with milt)
SPLT				2
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); 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. Data subject to revision.				

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

### Hatchery Release Update

The Coleman National Fish Hatchery released its third spring run surrogate group of approximately 85,600 late-fall Chinook salmon into Battle Creek on 1/25. This release group has an estimated fork length of 145 mm and is 100% adipose fin clipped and coded wire tagged. If the cumulative loss exceeds 0.5% at the Delta fish facilities for this surrogate group, then an action response in NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 will be required.

### Salvage Monitoring

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Salmonids from 1/22/13 to 1/27/13								
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								
<b>Total to Date</b>	93	62	9	6	322	1,460	10	46
CHNLF					4	18		
<b>Total to Date</b>	161	115	28	18	616	2,780	57	259
CHNW	15	13			8	36	6	27
<b>Total to Date</b>	35	28	24	17	83	375	64	288
CHNS								
<b>Total to Date</b>								
CHNU								
<b>Total to Date</b>			8	5				
SH	10	7	8	5	12	52		
<b>Total to Date</b>	10	7	25	17	12	52	22	95

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 x 4.33 and CVP steelhead loss = salvage x 0.68.  
 -Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013).  
 -Data subject to revision.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 1/22/13 to 1/27/13				
Species	CVP		SWP	
	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM*	12	93	26	86
LFS				4
SPLT		9		47
GST				
WST		4		6

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).  
 -Data subject to revision.

\*As of yesterday (1/30), the cumulative CVP/SWP salvage total for delta smelt was at about 197, which is about 65% of the incidental take limit.

Salvage information is posted on the salvage FTP site (<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**

Smelt Larva Survey #2 was in the field on 1/14 and 1/15. A full survey was completed (i.e., 35 stations sampled) and all stations have been processed. DFW collected a total of 452 larvae that ranged in size from 5 to 8 mm. Of this total, 17 were collected in the central and south Delta criteria stations. Based on these results, the longfin smelt distribution and abundance criteria from the SWP Longfin Smelt Incidental Take Permit were not met for Smelt Larva Survey #2.

Furthermore, DFW did not detect any delta smelt larvae for Smelt Larva Survey #2, but did collect 3 pre-spawning adult delta smelt in the Montezuma Slough and lower San Joaquin River stations. These adult delta smelt ranged in size from 62 to 78 mm.

Smelt Larval Survey #3 was in the field this week on 1/28 and 1/29. A full survey was completed, but only the 12 central and south Delta criteria stations have been processed so far. At these 12 stations, DFW collected a total of 151 longfin smelt larvae that ranged in size from 5 mm to 8 mm. In addition, DFW did not detect any delta smelt larvae at these 12 stations.

Based on these preliminary results, the longfin smelt distribution criteria (longfin smelt larvae or juveniles detected at 8 of the 12 criteria stations) were met for Smelt Larva Survey #3, which would initiate Old and Middle River (OMR) flow advice from DFW and the Smelt Working Group. The Smelt Working Group has not met yet to discuss the results from Smelt Larva Survey #3 and will do so on 2/4.

Smelt Larva Survey #4 will be in the field on 2/11 and 2/12. For more information about the Smelt Larva Survey, please visit the DFW website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SLS>.

As a reminder, Spring Kodiak Trawl #2 will be in the field during the week of 2/4. For more information about the Spring Kodiak Trawl, please visit the DFW website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SKT>.

### **General Delta Smelt Discussion**

*Water Temperature:* After the smelt monitoring update, there was a question about whether water temperature in the Delta is usually around 12°C when delta smelt begin to spawn. Leigh Bartoo (FWS) mentioned that 12°C is the point at which there is a lot of spawning going on, but spawning has well begun.

As a follow up, there was a question on whether there is any kind of indicator that could be used to determine when spawning begins during periods when survey data are not available. Bartoo mentioned that there really isn't any threshold that could be used to indicate when delta smelt begin to spawn. However, FWS RPA Component 1, Action 2 does end when the daily water temperature average at Rio Vista, Antioch, and Mossdale reaches 12°C, or when there is an onset of spawning based on the presence of spent females in the Spring Kodiak Trawl or at the Delta fish facilities. These triggers are used to indicate spawning and the presence of larval delta smelt in the south and central Delta.

After the DAT conference call, Bartoo sent an e-mail to the DAT reflector with excerpts from the 2008 FWS BiOp that provides more information about delta smelt spawning. Excerpts are below:

page 147: "Adult delta smelt spawn during the late winter and spring months, with most spawning occurring during April through mid-May (Moyle 2002). Spawning occurs primarily in sloughs and shallow edge areas in the Delta. Delta smelt spawning has also been recorded in Suisun Marsh and the Napa River (Moyle 2002). Most spawning occurs at temperatures between 12-18°C.

Although spawning may occur at temperatures up to 22°C, hatching success of the larvae is very low (Bennett 2005)."

*Entrainment Risk of Adult Delta Smelt when Action 3 Begins:* There was a question on whether the concern level or the amount of take for adult delta smelt will dissipate once FWS RPA Component 2, Action 3 begins. Bartoo clarified that adult delta smelt are still at risk of entrainment even if Action 3 begins. The Smelt Working Group will still be making recommendations for adult delta smelt if needed and the incidental take limit for adult delta smelt still applies even when Action 3 begins.

### **Smelt Working Group**

The Smelt Working Group met on 1/28 and recommended that the 14-day average OMR flow be set at no more negative than -2,500 cfs with a 5-day average OMR flow of no more negative than -3,125 cfs. The FWS released its determination on 1/29 and agreed with the Smelt Working Group's OMR flow level recommendation. Language from the determination was provided on the DAT conference call and excerpts are below:

The Service determined that as of January 28, 2013, OMR be set to no more negative than -2,500 cfs until entrainment risk abates and/or a new determination is made. Accordingly, OMR flows shall be no more negative than -2,500 cfs on a 14 day running average, with a 5-day running average no more negative than -3,125 cfs (within 25 percent).

After reviewing the language from the determination, there was a question on what "entrainment risk abates" meant and whether a threshold has been defined. Bartoo clarified that there is no set threshold and FWS will be determining whether entrainment risk has abated based on the Smelt Working Group's weekly recommendation and based on other information that is available at the time.

In addition, there were questions about the likelihood of the CVP/SWP incidental take limit being exceeded for adult delta smelt and what would happen in terms of operations if the incidental take limit is exceeded. Bartoo appreciated everyone's high degree of concern, but could not answer these questions on the DAT conference call since she has to stick with the data itself. Instead, she encouraged DAT stakeholders to contact FWS management directly if there are any concerns about what would happen if the incidental take limit is exceeded. Bartoo will follow up with FWS management to see if there is an appropriate contact person and will send the information to the DAT e-mail reflector after the DAT conference call.

Andy Chu (DWR) also encouraged everyone to check out the Smelt Working Group website to get the latest information since the Smelt Working Group does a great job with getting information posted, such as the meeting notes and the FWS determinations. The Smelt Working Group notes and FWS determinations are posted at [http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt\\_working\\_group.cfm](http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm).

### **Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group**

DAT reviewed the DOSS e-mail update that was sent out to the DAT e-mail reflector by Barb Byrne (NMFS) before the conference call. Excerpts from the e-mail update are below:

#### DOSS Advice from 1/29 meeting

DOSS provided no advice to NMFS and WOMET on Tuesday, 1/29/2013.

#### General information on implementation of Action IV.2.3

Action IV.2.3 went into effect on January 1st and requires that OMR be no more negative than -5,000 cfs. No loss trigger in Action IV.2.3 has been exceeded to date in 2013, so no action responses (for more positive OMR levels of -3,500 cfs or -2,500 cfs) have been required.

After reviewing the e-mail update, there were no questions or concerns from DAT that need to be addressed to NMFS or DOSS.

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

## Operations

<b>Preliminary Summary for 1/31/13</b>			
<b>SWP</b>		<b>CVP</b>	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	1,500	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	2,000
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	1,216	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	722
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	494	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	2,250
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,750	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	4,500
<b>DELTA OPERATIONS</b>			
Outflow	~ 17,600	14-day Average OMR Flow as of 1/30/13 (cfs)	-2,544
X2 (km)	69	5-day Average OMR Flow as of 1/30/13 (cfs)	-1,268
E/I (%)	15.7 (14-day average)		

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 conference call is scheduled on 2/7 at 11:00 a.m. An e-mail update will be sent out before the conference call if an agency representative cannot call in.