

**DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
3/7/13 at 11:00 a.m**

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Geir Aasen and Julio Adib-Samii (DFW), Edmund Yu, Elaine Jeu and Wenli Yin (DWR), Angie Bourandas (FWS), Elizabeth Leeper (KMTG on behalf of SLDMWA), Owen Lu and RG Fernando (MWD), Barb Byrne (NMFS)

Sacramento River Salmonid Monitoring

Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report			
Species*	FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)	DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)	DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)
Date	2/12/13 to 2/25/13	3/4/13 to 3/6/13	Monitoring discontinued since 12/15/12.
Wild CHNF	910,625		
Wild CHNLF			
Wild CHNW	975		
Wild CHNS	94		
Hatchery CHN	Not reported		
Wild SH	21		
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 clipped indicates hatchery stock; non-adipose fin clipped indicates wild origin. Data subject to revision.			

Update on Tisdale Weir and Knights Landing monitoring: DFW discontinued RST monitoring at Tisdale Weir and at Knights Landing on 12/15/12 since DFW exceeded its take for winter-run Chinook salmon under its Section 10 permit. Since then, NMFS has been working with DFW to amend its Section 10 permit at Tisdale Weir and at Knights Landing. In addition, NMFS and DFW have been working on refining the sampling protocols at these monitoring sites.

After much discussion, take at Tisdale Weir is now covered under the 2009 NMFS BiOp since Tisdale Weir was a new monitoring station that was required under the 2009 NMFS BiOp. Therefore, RST monitoring was allowed to resume at Tisdale Weir on 3/4. RST monitoring at Tisdale Weir is now operating under a modified schedule and under different sampling protocols. For instance, sampling will now only occur 3 days a week and each trap will be fished for about 8 hours.

In comparison, take at Knights Landing will continue to be permitted through a Section 10 permit and monitoring has not resumed. However, it is possible that DFW might also resume RST monitoring at Knights Landing this water year and operate on a modified schedule. DFW only exceeded its incidental take for winter-run Chinook salmon and there is still some take left for the other species.

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.

Delta Fish Monitoring

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 2/24/13 to 3/2/13				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl	Sacramento Trawl	Chipps Island Trawl
Wild CHNF	220	1	2	
Wild CHNLF				
Wild CHNW	7			
Wild CHNS	9			
Hatchery CHN	7			

Wild SH				
Hatchery SH	1			2
DSM				5 (68 to 80 mm, no expression)
LFS				4(118 to 124 mm, 2 with eggs)
SPLT				3

*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 clipped indicates hatchery stock; non-adipose fin clipped indicates wild origin. Data subject to revision.

Information about the Delta fish monitoring data from FWS can also be found at <http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/>.

Salvage Monitoring

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Salmonids from 2/25/13 to 3/3/13								
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							6	25
Total to Date	93	62	16	11	322	1,460	16	71
CHNLF								
Total to Date	165	118	28	18	616	2,780	57	260
CHNW								
Total to Date	55	44	33	24	91	412	64	288
CHNS								
Total to Date								
CHNU								
Total to Date								
SH	47	32	3	2	8	35		
Total to Date	120	82	46	31	54	234	44	191

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 <http://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 2/25/13 to 3/3/13				
Species	CVP		SWP	
	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM	8	136		102
LFS				4
SPLT	4	13		51
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.

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 #5 was in the field on 2/25 and 2/26. So far, DFW has processed 30 out of the 35 stations. DFW has collected a total of 3,078 longfin smelt larvae that ranged in size from 5 to 17 mm, and no delta smelt larvae or adults have been detected. Smelt Larva Survey #5 did end up meeting the distribution criteria from the SWP longfin smelt incidental take permit since longfin smelt larvae were collected at 8 of the 12 central and south Delta criteria stations.

For more information about the Smelt Larva Survey, please visit the DFW website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SLS>.

Spring Kodiak Trawl #3 is in the field this week from 3/4 to 3/7 and a full survey will be completed. Based on preliminary information, spent female delta smelt have been detected in this survey and this preliminary information was shared with the Smelt Working Group on 3/4.

For more information about the Spring Kodiak Trawl, please visit the DFW website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SKT>.

20-mm Survey #1 will be in the field between 3/11 and 3/14. For more information about the 20-mm Survey, please visit the DFW website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm>.

Smelt Working Group

The Smelt Working Group met this past Monday (3/4) and recommended that the 14-day average Old and Middle River (OMR) flow be no more negative than -5,000 cfs and the 5-day average OMR flow be no more negative than -6,250 cfs for delta smelt. In addition, the Smelt Working Group recommended an OMR flow of -5,000 cfs to be protective of longfin smelt.

FWS issued its determination the following day (3/5) and adopted the recommendation for delta smelt after reviewing the recommendation from the Smelt Working Group and information from the Delta Conditions Team. FWS noted that FWS RPA Component 2, Action 3 has now been initiated due to the presence of spent female delta smelt in Spring Kodiak Trawl #3. Action 3 is intended to reduce the number of larval and juvenile delta smelt from entrainment.

In addition, FWS issued a corrected incidental take statement on 2/22. For water year 2013, the adult delta smelt incidental take limit increased from 305 to 362 fish and the larval-juvenile delta smelt incidental take limit decreased from 2,360 to 2,350 fish. After the DAT conference call, the monthly larval-juvenile delta smelt take limits were e-mailed out to DAT since the monthly limits were not included in the corrected incidental take statement:

	April	May	June	July
Concern Level	13	540	1,379	1,566
Incidental Take Limit	20	809	2,069	2,350

The monthly larval-juvenile incidental take limits are used as guidance by the Smelt Working Group for making recommendations to ensure DWR and Reclamation do not exceed the overall larval-juvenile delta smelt take limit.

Lastly, there was a question on how to keep track of the adult and larval-juvenile delta smelt salvage for this water year. Edmund Yu (DWR) suggested visiting the "Daily_Smelt_Summary" subdirectory of the DFW salvage FTP site and reviewing the "Smelt_Salvage_Tables_2013" pdf file (see

http://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/Daily_Smelt_Summary/). The file separates out smelt salvage by juveniles and adults, and is updated by the afternoon of every business day.

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

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group

There was no new advice this week. None of the triggers in NFMS RPA Action IV.2.3 have been exceeded so far this year.

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

Operations

Preliminary Summary for 3/7/13			
SWP		CVP	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	2,700	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	2,600
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	472	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	762
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	1,234	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,750
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,750	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	3,800
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow (cfs)	~8,100	14-day Average OMR Flow as of 3/6/13 (cfs)	-4250
X2 (km)	78	5-day Average OMR Flow as of 3/6/13(cfs)	-5424
E/I (%)	34.1% (14-day average)		

There was a question on why the Clifton Court inflow reported on the DAT conference call differed than what was reported on the online daily operations sheet. Wenli Yin (DWR) clarified that a real-time change was made to capture the extra water in the Delta. Therefore, Clifton Court inflow was changed from 2,500 cfs to 2,700 cfs.

In addition, there was a question on whether the OMR values posted on the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) were accurate since USGS recently replaced a flow meter communication cable at the Old River at Bacon gage, which led to reporting issues and missing data at the OMR station on CDEC. Yin clarified that issues with CDEC reporting have been resolved.

Lastly, there was a question on what the pulse flows objectives at Vernalis were going to be like for April and May during the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan. After the DAT conference call, Liz Kiteck (Reclamation) mentioned that the preliminary estimates based on the 2/1 DWR water supply index (WSI) indicate a target flow of 2,000 cfs in a 90% exceedance forecast and 3,200 cfs in a 50% exceedance forecast. These estimates will be updated once Reclamation gets the 3/1 numbers.

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 3/14 at 11:00 a.m. An e-mail update will be sent out before the conference call if an agency representative cannot call in.