

**DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes  
3/14/13 at 11:00 a.m**

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Geir Aasen and Lauren Damon (DFW), Andy Chu, Edmund Yu, Elaine Jeu and Loi Tran (DWR), Jon Speegle and Leigh Bartoo (FWS), Elizabeth Leeper (KMTG on behalf of SLDMWA), RG Fernando (MWD)

**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>2/26/13 to 3/11/13</b>	<b>3/8/13 to 3/11/13</b>	<b>Monitoring discontinued since 12/15/12.</b>
Wild CHNF	142,054	1	
Wild CHNLF			
Wild CHNW	655		
Wild CHNS	144		
Hatchery CHN	Not reported		
Wild SH	86		
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.			

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 3/3/13 to 3/9/13</b>				
<b>Species*</b>	<b>Beach Seines</b>	<b>Mossdale Trawl</b>	<b>Sacramento Trawl</b>	<b>Chippis Island Trawl</b>
Wild CHNF	251	1		
Wild CHNLF				
Wild CHNW	3			1
Wild CHNS	23			
Hatchery CHN	6			1
Wild SH				1
Hatchery SH				1
DSM				9 (68 to 76 mm, no expression)
LFS				10 (69 to 124 mm, 3 w/eggs, 7 with no expression)
SPLT				1
*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**

For reporting period 3/4 to 3/11, there was no salvage at the CVP fish facility on 3/8 for about 50 minutes due to a broken pump. In addition, the SWP fish facility began larval fish sampling on 3/6 and the CVP

fish facility began larval fish sampling on 3/11 to detect larval delta smelt and longfin smelt. Larval fish is defined as fish less than 20 mm in fork length and any fish less than 20 mm in fork length are not counted towards salvage since salvage efficiency decreases for these smaller fish. As of 3/13, no larval delta smelt have been detected at either fish facility, but larval longfin smelt have been detected at the fish facilities.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Salmonids from 3/4/13 to 3/10/13								
Species	Central Valley Project (CVP)				State Water Project (SWP)			
	Adipose Fin Clipped (Hatchery)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Wild)		Adipose Fin Clipped (Hatchery)		Non-Adipose Clipped (Wild)	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF							4	17
<b>Total to Date</b>	93	62	19	12	322	1,460	20	88
CHNLF								
<b>Total to Date</b>	165	118	28	18	616	2,780	57	260
CHNW			40	32	1	4	36	161
<b>Total to Date</b>	55	44	72	55	94	449	100	458
CHNS								
<b>Total to Date</b>								
CHNU								
<b>Total to Date</b>			8	5				
SH	28	19	4	3	35	152	16	69
<b>Total to Date</b>	148	100	50	34	89	385	60	260
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 <a href="ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/Salmon%20Loss%20Estimation/">ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/Salmon%20Loss%20Estimation/</a> .								
-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 3/4/13 to 3/10/13				
Species	CVP		SWP	
	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM	4	140	10	112
LFS*				4
SPLT		13	3	54
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.				

\*Outside of the reporting period, the CVP fish facility salvaged four longfin smelt on 3/13.

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 from 2/25 to 2/26 and all 35 stations have now been processed. DFW did not collect any adult or larval delta smelt. However, DFW did collect 7,055 longfin smelt larvae that ranged in size from 5 to 13 mm. Of this total, DFW collected 113 longfin smelt larvae in the south and central Delta criteria stations and the survey surpassed the distribution criteria from the SWP longfin smelt incidental take permit.

Smelt Larva Survey #6 will be in the field from 3/18 to 3/19 and this will be the final Smelt Larva Survey for the season. 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 was in the field from 3/4 to 3/7. DFW collected 75 adult delta smelt that ranged in size from 60 to 83 mm. Of this total, 56 were females (14 spent), 18 were male (1 ripe and 4 spent), and 1 was undetermined. In terms of distribution, 10 were from the lower San Joaquin River, 27 were from the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel, 17 were from the lower Sacramento River, 13 were from Montezuma Slough, and 6 were from downstream of the confluence.

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

The 20-mm Survey #1 was in the field from 3/11 to 3/14 and preliminary results will be available next week for review. Starting on 3/25, 20-mm Survey #2 will be in the field. For more information on 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 (3/11) and provided advice to FWS for delta smelt and DFW for longfin smelt.

*Delta Smelt:* The Smelt Working Group recommended that the 14-day average Old and Middle River (OMR) flow be maintained at no more negative than -5,000 cfs and the 5-day average OMR flow be maintained at no more negative than -6,250 cfs for delta smelt. This recommendation is based on adult delta smelt since there has not been any juvenile delta smelt present in any of the current survey or salvage data. On 3/12, FWS issued a new determination for delta smelt and it mirrored the recommendation of the Smelt Working Group.

After the providing this week's delta smelt recommendation, FWS was asked if there was any monthly salvage concern level or incidental take limit for juvenile delta smelt for March. Leigh Bartoo (FWS) responded that there is no juvenile delta smelt concern level or incidental take limit for March and that juvenile delta smelt salvage is not likely to occur in March based on current and historical trends. Any juvenile delta smelt salvaged in March would count towards the incidental take limit of 2,350 fish for water year 2013.

In addition, the monthly salvage concern levels and incidental take limits are used more as guidance rather than as a hard limit to ensure the overall water year incidental take limit for juvenile delta smelt is not exceeded. If juvenile delta smelt are salvaged in March, then FWS will need to discuss whether there should be a monthly salvage concern level or incidental take limit for March. It is possible that the current concern level and incidental take limit in April could apply for March.

*Longfin Smelt:* The Smelt Working Group continued to recommend an OMR flow of -5,000 cfs for longfin smelt.

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**

DOSS met this past Tuesday (3/12) and reviewed the action response for exceeding the first stage trigger in NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 on 3/9 (Saturday) when the combined SWP/CVP wild older juvenile Chinook loss density exceeded 5.33 fish/TAF. Exceeding the trigger requires OMR flow to be managed at -3,500 cfs for at least five consecutive days with a five day running average of no more negative than -4,375 cfs (i.e., 25% of -3,500 cfs) during any time of the action response. DWR and Reclamation can return to managing OMR flow at -5,000 cfs when no fish density criteria are met for the last three days of the action response.

DWR notified NMFS on the following day (Sunday, 3/10) that a trigger was exceeded and day one of action response was determined to be on 3/10 since DWR and Reclamation were already operating to the 5-day running average OMR flow requirement. Between 3/10 and 3/13, the daily wild older juvenile Chinook loss density has been below the 5.33 fish/TAF trigger and the daily wild steelhead loss density has been below the 8 fish/TAF trigger. Today (3/14) is the fifth day of the action response and the daily loss densities for wild older juvenile Chinook salmon and wild steelhead will have to be calculated tomorrow morning to see if there has been three days where the daily fish loss densities are below the trigger densities.

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

### **Operations**

<b>Preliminary Summary for 3/14/13</b>			
<b>SWP</b>		<b>CVP</b>	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	1,000	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	1,700
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	485	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	774
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	1,259	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,750
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	5,000	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	5,000
<b>DELTA OPERATIONS</b>			
Outflow (cfs)	~12,900	14-day Average OMR Flow as of 3/13/13 (cfs)	-4,416
X2 (km)	74	5-day Average OMR Flow as of 3/13/13(cfs)	-3,701
E/I (%)	24.7 (14-day average)		

There was a question on whether there were any changes to scheduled reservoir releases or exports. Loi Tran (DWR) mentioned that Keswick reservoir releases are scheduled to decrease and by Sunday (3/17) the releases will be reduced to around 4,600 cfs. In addition, a reduction to Nimbus reservoir releases is scheduled to be reduced to around 1,500 cfs on Monday (3/18). These cuts are done to try to conserve reservoir storage.

For Oroville, an increase in reservoir releases was made a few days ago on 3/10 from 1,750 cfs to 5,000 cfs. The Oroville reservoir releases might be reduced in the next few days, but the current goal is to meet the X2 days at Chipps Island requirement in D-1641. The X2 standard is 18 days at Chipps Island for March and 11 days have been met so far.

In terms of exports, a real-time cut to Clifton Court inflow was actually made today (3/14) from 1,500 cfs to 1,000 cfs to meet outflow requirements for X2.

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 3/21 at 11:00 a.m. An e-mail update will be sent out before the conference call if an agency representative cannot call in.

DRAFT