

DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
04/16/2015 at 11:00 a.m.

Participants: Geir Aasen (DFW), Rhiannon Mulligan, Norman Lee and Farida Islam (DWR), Jon Speegle, Leigh Bartoo, and Craig Anderson (FWS), Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Owem Lu and RG Fernando (MWD)

Sacramento River Fish Monitoring

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_jsmp.html

Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report				
Species*	FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) RST (Catch)	DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)	DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)
Date	3/26/2015-4/08/2015	4/09/2015-4/15/2015	4/08/2015-4/14/2015	4/09/2015-4/15/2015
CHNF	6,623	83	3	1
CHNLF	81			
CHNW	614	16		2
CHNS	13,104	423	2	14
Ad-Clipped CHN	Not Reported	0		0
SH	146	1		
Ad-Clipped SH	Not Reported	0	2	0
GST	Not Reported		Not Reported	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, GST= Green Sturgeon. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

A huge peak in spring run catch at GCID and RBDD was observed during the reporting period.

Hatchery Release:

The previously announced release of approximately six million brood year 2014 fall Chinook salmon from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery will now only be released in the Rio Vista net pens on April 18-19, 2015. This release will include 25% marked (adipose fin clip and CWT) and 75% unmarked fish. In other words, a total of 207,350 fish will be marked out of 829,400 released fish.

Delta Fish Monitoring

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 04/05/2015-04/11/2015				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl*	Sacramento Trawl	Chippis Island Trawl
CHNF	18		4	24
CHNLF				
CHNW	1		1	5
CHNS	30		7	356
Ad-Clipped CHN	7		27	139
SH				
Ad-Clipped SH				1
DSM	1(72mm at Sandy Beach			
LFS				5(68-121mm, no expression)
SPLT	43			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. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.

* Mossdale Trawls (submitted by CDFW), 4 CHN, 1 RBT & no other species of management concern. The average size of the Chinook Salmon (CHN) are spring run.

Jersey-Prisoner's Point Trawls, No trawls conducted this week. The Jersey-Prisoner's Point Trawls will only resume if needed such as if the DCC gates are opened.

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

Salvage Monitoring

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Salmonids from 04/06/2015-04/12/2015								
Species	Central Valley Project (CVP)				State Water Project (SWP)			
	Adipose-Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)		Adipose-Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF								
Total to Date			12	9	41	180	4	17
CHNLF								
Total to Date	72	55			64	285	6	26
CHNW								
Total to Date	16	11	36	31	46	203	17	75
CHNS			4	3				
Total to Date			22.5	19				
CHNU								
Total to Date								
SH			4					
Total to Date	112		4		403		22	
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 or fork length not measured), 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 10/1/13 (the start of water year 2014).								
-Data subject to revision.								

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 04/06/29/2015-04/12/2015				
Species	CVP		SWP	
	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM		64		4
LFS		8		
SPLT		12		635
GST				
WST				
Notes: SWP has seen some longfin smelt just over 20mm within the last few days. There was a total of 12 Longfin smelt at of 4/16/2015				
-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 10/1/13 (the start of water year 2014).				
-Data subject to revision.				

Smelt Monitoring

Rhiannon Mulligan (DWR) provided the following update from the Smelt Working Group 4/13/15 meeting notes posted on website:

20-mm Survey #2 was in the field starting March 30 and continued through April 8. Processing is 95% complete. One Delta Smelt was caught at station 812 (9 mm) and one at station 707 (15 mm). 20-mm Survey #3 is in the field this week.

Spring Kodiak Trawl #4 was in the field last week. A single ripe male (66 mm) Delta Smelt was caught at station 719. One 27 mm Delta Smelt was also caught at station 719 (positive identification of this fish as a Wakasagi was made on April 14, 2015).

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm>.

Smelt Working Group

Leigh Bartoo (FWS) provided the following update :

The Working Group agreed that given present distribution, current salvage, and Delta conditions, there was no indication that the projected combined exports of approximately 1500 cfs for the week (potentially resulting in daily average OMR flows of approximately -1900 cfs) need to be modified for the protection of Delta Smelt adults and larvae.

The Working Group is following guidance for entrainment protections from both Action 2 (adult Delta Smelt) and Action 3 (juvenile Delta Smelt).

The Working Group also agreed that given their present distribution, existing constraining conditions were sufficient to protect longfin smelt from entrainment in the southern Delta.

The Working Group will continue to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions and will meet again Monday, April 20, 2015 at 10 am.

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

Barb Byrne(NMFS) provided the following via the DAT reflector:

Highlights from 4/14/15 DOSS meeting

DOSS Advice: None

Special Topics:

Sac Seine sampling -- FWS requested a return to baseline beach seine sampling, with a return to intensified sampling if the DCC may open. ***DOSS supported this request (and NMFS later approved the request); DOSS felt that the baseline sampling is sufficient for our estimates of fish distribution.***

DOSS Feedback on Entrainment Risk (same as last week):

Entrainment risk of fish from the Sacramento River into the Interior Delta (same as last week except for tidal conditions)

DOSS noted that generally, there is an increased risk of entrainment into the interior Delta during spring tides, compared to during neap tides, at any OMR level. During a spring tide, tidal conditions extend further upstream and may, for example, create conditions at Georgiana Slough (e.g. reverse flows) that are associated with routing into Georgiana Slough, a route to the interior Delta. Currently, the Delta is leaving a entering the spring tide (new moon is on Saturday).

Entrainment risk of fish in the Interior Delta into the CVP/SWP facilities (same as last week)

- -1,200 to -2,000 cfs has a medium risk of entrainment
- -2,000 to -3,500 cfs has a medium to high risk of entrainment
- -3,500 to -5,000 cfs has a high risk of entrainment
- more negative than -5,000 cfs has a higher risk of entrainment

Delta RPA Actions affecting operations during April:

Action IV.1.2 (DCC gate operations):

- DCC gates are closed

Action IV.2.3 (OMR Management)

- Daily OMR limits in effect is -5,000 cfs; OMR is not currently controlling.

Action IV.2.1 (I:E ratio)

- 1:1 I:E ratio is in effect; exports are limited to this ratio or 1500 cfs, whichever is greater.

Fish highlights:

SR acoustic tracking

- As of 4/13/15, 8% (2+ detections) of FRH SR have passed the receiver at the I80/I50 bridge; 4% past Hood, and 0% past the Middle River receiver.

Hatchery releases

- April 10-19, 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will release approximately 6 million brood year 2014 fall Chinook salmon from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery into the Sacramento River at Rio Vista (i.e. will be trucked).

DOSS estimates of the current distribution of listed Chinook, as a percentage of the population, are based on recent monitoring data and historical migration timing patterns. The table below reflects current distribution.

Location	Yet to Enter Delta (Upstream of Knights Landing)	In the Delta	Exited the Delta (Past Chipps Island)
<i>Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon (naturally produced)</i>	Few stragglers only (last week: same)	20% (last week: 40%)	80% (last week: 60%)
<i>YOY winter-run Chinook salmon (hatchery-produced)</i>	Few stragglers only (last week: same)	20% (last week: 40%)	80% (last week: 60%)
<i>YOY spring-run Chinook salmon^A</i>	Few stragglers only to 5% (last week: ~5%)	50% (last week: 60%)	50% (last week: 40%)
<i>Yearling spring-run Chinook salmon^B</i>	Few stragglers only (last week: same)	5% (last week: 10%)	95% (last week: 90%)
<i>Hatchery Steelhead^C</i>	5% (last week: 5% all hatchery fish)	5% (last week: 10% all hatchery fish)	90% (last week: 85% all hatchery fish)
<i>Sacramento River steelhead (naturally-produced)</i>	Limited catch data		
<i>San Joaquin River steelhead^D</i>	5% - 10% (last week: 10%)	40% (last week: 50%)	45% - 50% (last week: 35% -40%)

^A Chipp Island Trawl data of spring-run is difficult to interpret now that the 75% unmarked fall-run productions are likely masking the wild spring-run Chinook catch.

^B No yearling spring-run Chinook salmon have been caught in 2014 monitoring. In general, very few yearling spring-run Chinook salmon are observed because of their relatively large size and strong swimming (and associated gear avoidance) abilities.

^C Difficult to assess now that all hatchery releases are in the system (CNFH, Feather River Fish Hatchery, and Mokelumne Fish Hatchery released as usual; Nimbus Hatchery released their steelhead in the spring of 2014 because of expected unsuitable hatchery water temperatures during the summer of 2014). Percentages are intended to capture distribution of steelhead that migrate out; not those that may residualize.

^D Have not observed juvenile steelhead in monitoring data; Distribution estimates are based on 10 years of historical data from Mossdale Trawls, and RST data from Caswell Park on the Stanislaus River.

DOSS notes and related documents are posted at
http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/doss.html.

Operations: Norman Lee(DWR-OCO) provided the following update:

Preliminary Summary for 4/16/2015			
SWP		CVP	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	550	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	1,000
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	929	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	392
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	1321	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	500
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,200	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	3,250
		Stanislaus – Goodwin Reservoir Releases (cfs)	
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow (cfs)	~5,000	Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates	Closed
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	~8,530	OMR (cfs)	-1807
X2 (km)	> 81	5-day average (cfs)	-1750
Export/Inflow (%)	17.3% (14-day avg)	14-day OMR (cfs)	-1671

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

Next Conference Call: DAT will not convene next week. CALfed ops is scheduled to meet on 4/22/2015. Farida will send out more information via the DAT reflector.