

**DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
12/17/2015 at 11:00 a.m.**

Participants: Jeff Stuart (NMFS), Trishelle Morris, Geir Aasen (DFW), Rhiannon Mulligan and Norman Lee (DWR) Josh Gruber, Leigh Bartoo, and Jon Speegle (FWS) RG Fernando, Owen Lu (MWD)

Sacramento River Fish Monitoring update provided by Rhiannon Mulligan (DWR):

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	12/03/2015-12/16/2015	12/10/15-12/16/15	12/10/2015-12/16/2015	12/10/2015-12/16/2015
CHNF	119,692	167	18	1
CHNLF	18,128	78	1	0
CHNW	42,652	172	17	4
CHNS	51,295	16	9	4
Ad-Clipped CHN	Not Reported	582	29	18
SH	276	1	0	0
Ad-Clipped SH	Not Reported	0	0	0
GST	Not Reported	3	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.				

RBDD- There was a pulse of all runs on 12/11. The winter-run Chinook pulse has since slowly tapered off. Ad-Clipped Chinook continue numbers continue to go up. No new sturgeons were observed. Brood year winter run Chinook totals are over all still lower than 2012, 2013, and 2014.

GCID- Most of the AD-Clipped Chinooks are Late Fall run

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 Update:

Approximately 261,000 brood year 2015 late-fall Chinook were released on December 9th, 2015 into Battle Creek at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. This group is 100% marked (with an adipose-fin clip) and coded-wire tag with an overall estimated average fork length of 135mm.

Approximately 77,000 brood year late-fall Chinook were released on December 11th, 2015 into Battle Creek at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. The purpose of this experimental late-fall release is to provide insight into the migratory behavior and fate of yearling spring Chinook salmon emigrating from the upper Sacramento River and its tributaries. The fish group is to be 100% marked (adipose-fin clip) and coded-wire tag with an estimated fork length of 135mm.

Delta Fish Monitoring update provided by Jon Speegle (FWS):

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 12/06/15 to 12/12/15				
Species*	Beach Seines**	Mossdale Trawl**	Sacramento Trawl **	Chipps Island Trawl
CHNF				
CHNLF				1
CHNW				
CHNS				
Ad-Clipped CHN				
SH				
Ad-Clipped SH				
DSM				
LFS				
SPLT				

*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.

Jersey/Prisoners Pt. Trawls, 2 DSM & no other species of management concern

**No species of management concern for this sampling period

Information about the Delta fish monitoring data from FWS can be found at

<http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/>.

Salvage Monitoring update provided by Geir Aasen (DFW):

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Salmonids from 12/10/15 to 12/16/15*								
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								
CHNLF								
Total to Date								
CHNW								
Total to Date								

CHNS								
Total to Date								
CHNU								
Total to Date								
SH								
Total to Date								
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 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 10/1/13 (the start of water year 2014). -Data subject to revision.								

* No Salvage of listed species have been observed at either fish facility.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 12/10/15 to 12/16/15*				
	CVP		SWP	
Species	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM				
LFS				
SPLT				
GST				
WST				
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 10/1/13 (the start of water year 2014). -Data subject to revision.				

* No Salvage of Smelt and Other species have been observed at either fish facility.

Smelt Monitoring Update provided by Trishelle Morris (DFW):

The Spring Kodiak Trawl is finished and the data will be released next week.

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

Smelt Working Group Update provided by Leigh Bartoo (FWS):

The SWG met Monday. After reviewing current information there was no need to make a recommendation to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for Delta Smelt or Longfin Smelt.

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

NMFS update for 12/17/15 DAT call:

DCC Flex Request:

NMFS responded on 12/4/2015 to a formal request from the Bureau of Reclamation allowing operational flexibility based on water quality concern levels rather than exceedances of the D-1641 criteria regarding DCC gate operations during the December 3-14 period. DCC gates were opened on Friday afternoon, 12/4/2015, to alleviate salinity conditions in the Delta interior and then closed at 9 AM on 12/15/15 at the completion of the requested flexibility period. No new requests are currently foreseen by Reclamation or DWR.

DOSS:

DOSS met on Tuesday, 12/15/15, and provided no advice.

Fish highlights:

Monitoring for 12/7/15 to 12/14/15

Tisdale: (as of 12/14 update)

- 11 wild FRCS
- 5 wild WRCS
- 5 wild SRCS
- 1 wild LFR CS
- 6 clipped LFR CS (by size, but only clipped fish in system)

Knights Landing (as of 12/14 update)

7 clipped LFR CS (by size - but only clipped fish in the system)

Early Warning Monitoring (as of 12/14 update)

Verona Beach seine (Sac Beach Seine group) - 1 wild WRCS (12/14/15)

Jersey Point - 3 Delta smelt (12/7, 10, and 14)

DAT Monitoring (12/6- 12/12)

Chippis Island - 1 wild LFR CS (caught on 12/11)

GCID monitoring –12/08/15 to 12/14/15:

Wild Fish

- 114 FR juv 2 smolts
- 10 SR juv 0 smolts
- 114 WR juv 0 smolts
- 0 LFR juv 68 smolts
- 1 SH smolt
- 3 GS yearlings (1+ yr 325, 325, and 310mm in length)

Ad Clipped fish

- 420 ad clipped CS (all should be considered LFR hatchery releases 2 put in FR size and 1 in WR size categories)

Other Information:

- ~261,000 hatchery production LFR CS released from Coleman NFH on Weds. (12/9), First group of spring-run yearling surrogates (LFR CS) released on Fri (12/11)
- RBDD biweekly update expected Wednesday or Thursday.
- DOSS group recommends that the spring-run surrogate releases follow last year's protocol – second release at the end of December, third release the middle of January, try to release fish to coincide with a forecasted precipitation event (3-7 day lead time).
- **DOSS estimates that <10% of the WR population are in the Delta; >90% still upstream – This is a change from last week's estimate of <5% in Delta and > 95% upriver.**

Delta RPA Actions that may affect operations during November/December:

Action IV.1.1 (Alerts that indicate the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gate operations may be triggered soon)¹:

- DCC gates are closed currently – triggers not applicable at this time.

Action IV.1.2² (DCC gate operations):

- DCC gates are currently closed (12/15/2015), in response to the completion of the flexibility request from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Action IV.3³ (Reduce likelihood of entrainment or salvage at the export facilities, including alert that indicates that export operations may be need be altered)

- Third alert has not been triggered.
- Since the action went into effect on 11/1/15, no salvage-based triggers that would require export reduction have been exceeded.

¹ For details, see pages 60-61 in Enclosure 2 of the 2011 Amendments to the 2009 RPA document at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/Water%20Operations/Operations,%20Criteria%20and%20Plan/040711_ocap_opinion_2011_amendments.pdf. Note that in October 2014, NMFS approved a modification of the first component of the first alert to a 95 cfs mean daily flow threshold in either Mill Creek or Deer Creek in lieu of operating the Mill and Deer Creek rotary screw traps.

² For details, see pages 62-66 in Enclosure 2 of the 2011 Amendments to the 2009 RPA document; available at the URL listed in footnote 1.

³ For details, see pages 79-80 in Enclosure 2 of the 2011 Amendments to the 2009 RPA document; available at the URL listed in footnote 1.

Full DOSS notes posted at:

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/ocapwy2016.html

Operations update provided by Norman Lee (DWR)

Preliminary Summary for 12/17/2015			
SWP		CVP	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	500	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	520
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	276	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	75
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	351	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	500
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,200	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	4,250
		Stanislaus-Goodwin Reservoir Releases (cfs)	
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow (cfs)	~10,900	Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates	closed
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	~11,872		
X2 (km)	>81		
Export/Inflow (%)	6.7% (3-day avg)		

Controlling factor: salinity management and water quality

A summary of daily operations can also be viewed at

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>.

Next Conference Call:

December 24th, 2015 at 11am.

Final DAT notes can be viewed at

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfeddat.cfm>