

**DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes  
12/24/2015 at 11:00 a.m.**

Participants: Lauren Damon, Geir Aasen (DFW), Rhiannon Mulligan, Dan Yamanaka and Norman Lee (DWR), Leo Lorloff (CCWD)

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

<b>Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report</b>				
<b>Species*</b>	<b>FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)</b>	<b>Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) RST (Catch)</b>	<b>DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)</b>	<b>DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>12/03/2015-12/16/2015</b>	<b>12/17/15-12/21/15</b>	<b>12/17/2015-12/22/2015</b>	<b>12/17/2015-12/23/2015</b>
CHNF	119,692	94	11	4
CHNLF	18,128	6	0	0
CHNW	42,652	43	10	6
CHNS	51,295	3	0	5
Ad-Clipped CHN	Not Reported	51	29	3
SH	276	0	0	0
Ad-Clipped SH	Not Reported		0	0
GST	Not Reported	0	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.				

GCID- cone was raised at 3pm on 12/21/2015 to avoid the peak in high flows and debris. Sample will resume upon further notice.

Knights Landing- Cones were raised Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> due to heavy debris. Trapping will resume December 24<sup>th</sup> and then cones will be raised in the evening. No trapping will occur Frida, December 25<sup>th</sup> in observation of the holiday. Trapping will resume Saturday morning.

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).

**Hatchery Update:**

Approximately 68,000 brood year 2015 late-fall Chinook will be released at Battle Creek on December 22, 2015 at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. The purpose of this experimental 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.

**Delta Fish Monitoring** update provided by Jon Speegle via the DAT reflector (DFW):

<b>Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 12/13/15 to 12/19/15</b>				
<b>Species*</b>	<b>Beach Seines</b>	<b>Mossdale Trawl**</b>	<b>Sacramento Trawl **</b>	<b>Chipps Island Trawl</b>
CHNF				
CHNLF				1
CHNW	5			
CHNS				
Ad-Clipped CHN				
SH				
Ad-Clipped SH				
DSM				
LFS				2
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 Point Trawls, 1 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 12/13/15 to 12/22/15*								
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								
<b>Total to Date</b>								
CHNLF			4	3.52				
<b>Total to Date</b>								
CHNW								
<b>Total to Date</b>								
CHNS								
<b>Total to Date</b>								
CHNU								
<b>Total to Date</b>								
SH								
<b>Total to Date</b>								

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.

\* On December 23<sup>rd</sup> Late-fall Chinook were salvaged at SWP for a salvage of 2

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 12/13/15 to 12/22/15*				
Species	CVP		SWP	
	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 have been observed at either fish facility.

**Smelt Monitoring** Update provided by Lauren Damon (DFW):

The full Spring Kodiak Trawl was in the field December 14- December 16. All 40 stations were sampled. 2 Delta Smelt at 606 Montezuma slough (both 64mm) were caught. No Longfin smelt and no salmonids were caught.

The Fall Midwater Trawl was completed for the year. The memo for the indices will be sent out to the DAT reflector.

Smelt Larva Survey begins January 4<sup>th</sup>

All Spring Kodiak Trawl results are to be posted on the website.

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Delta/Spring-Kodiak-Trawl>

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**Smelt Working Group** Updated via notes posted on December 14, 2015

The Working Group reviewed current Delta Smelt distribution and salvage data, and current Delta conditions.

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** Update provided by Jeff Stuart (NMFS)

**NMFS update for 12/22/15 DAT call:**

**DCC Flex Request:**

DCC gates 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, 12/22/15, and provided advice to NMFS. DOSS recommended that NMFS use the interim triggers for the JPE based OMR actions if the official JPE letter from NMFS was not ready by January 1, 2016. Action IV.2.3 should be implemented using the minimum trigger values for the JPE-based triggers, as follows:

- The first stage minimum action trigger is daily SWP/CVP older juvenile Chinook salmon loss density of 2.5 fish per TAF exported; exceedance would require OMR to be no more negative than -3,500 cfs for at least five days.
- The second stage minimum action trigger is daily SWP/CVP older juvenile Chinook salmon loss density of 5.0 fish per TAF exported; exceedance would require OMR to be no more negative than -2,500 cfs for at least five days.

## **Fish highlights:**

### **Monitoring for 12/14/15 to 12/21/15**

#### **Tisdale:**

- 15 wild FRCS
- 20 wild WRCS
- 4 wild SRCS
- 0 wild LFR CS
- 52 clipped LFR CS (by size, but only clipped fish in system)

#### **Knights Landing**

- 3 wild FRCS
- 9 wild WRCS
- 7 wild SRCS
- 0 Wild LFRCS
- 12 clipped LFRCS (by size, but only clipped fish in system)

#### **Early Warning Monitoring**

- 4 wild WRCS (12/14 Verona, 12/16 Elkhorn, 12/16 Miller Park, 12/21 Sand Cove beach seines)
- 12/21 1 LFRCS (Miller Park beach seine)
- 12/21 1 CL CS (Sacramento KDTR @ Sherwood Harbor)

#### **DAT Monitoring (12/13- 12/19)**

- Chipps Island (1 LFRCS)
- Beach Seines (5 WRCS)

#### **GCID monitoring –12/15/15 to 12/22/15:**

##### Wild Fish

- 144 FR juv      0smolts
- 9 SR juv        0 smolts
- 101 WR juv     0 smolts
- 9 LFR juv      10 smolts
- 0 SH smolt
- 0 GS yearlings

##### Ad Clipped fish

- 213 ad clipped CS (all should be considered LFR hatchery releases)

##### Other Information:

- ~68,000 hatchery production BY 2015 LFR CS scheduled to be released from Coleman NFH on 12/22/15 as the second release of spring-run yearling surrogates. All fish are adipose clipped and CWT'd.
- USFWS biweekly report (12/3/15-12/16/15) for preliminary estimates of passage by brood-year and run for unmarked juvenile Chinook salmon captured by rotary screw traps at RBDD included:

Run and Species	Biweekly Total	Brood Year Total
Winter-run Chinook (BY2015)	42,652	312,038

- DOSS estimates that approximately 10% of the WR population are in the Delta; 90% still upstream – This is a change from last week’s estimate of <10% in Delta and > 90% 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)<sup>1</sup>:**

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

**Action IV.1.2<sup>2</sup> (DCC gate operations):**

- DCC gates are currently closed (12/22/2015). Gates will remain closed per the conditions of the RPA action. No requests for gate operational flexibility are currently foreseen from either DWR or Reclamation.

**Action IV.3<sup>3</sup> (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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/ocapwy2016.html)

**Operations** update provided by Norman Lee (DWR)

<b>Preliminary Summary for 12/24/2015</b>			
<b>SWP</b>		<b>CVP</b>	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	4,000	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	1,500
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	300	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	57
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	357	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	500
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	950	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	3,750
		Stanislaus-Goodwin Reservoir Releases (cfs)	200
<b>DELTA OPERATIONS</b>			
Outflow (cfs)	~17,000	Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates	closed
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	~20,222		
X2 (km)	>81		
Export/Inflow (%)	25.6% (3-day avg)		

Controlling factor: salinity management

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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at 11am.

Final DAT notes can be viewed at

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