

**DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
03/10/2016 at 11:00 a.m.**

Participants: Barb Byrne (NMFS), Geir Aasen, Josh Gruber, Leigh Bartoo, and Trishelle Morris (DFW), Rhiannon Mulligan, and Jessie Cheng (DWR) Jon Speegle (FWS), Alison Collins, RG Fernando, and Dave Fullerton (MWD), Lynn Neil (CCWD)

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	02/12/2016-02/25/2016	03/02/16-03/04/2016	03/03/2016-03/09/2016	03/02/2016-03/04/2016
CHNF	289,427	4	31	1
CHNLF	0			
CHNW	426			
CHNS	198		1	1
Ad-Clipped CHN	Not Reported	1	6	
SH	0			
Ad-Clipped SH	Not Reported		2	
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.				

The GCID trap was pulled from the bypass channel to avoid the expected peak in high flows and heavy debris.

RBDD- The next report will be out today. No sampling between 3/6-3/8 and the cones will be raised over the weekend.

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: Provided by Rhiannon Mulligan (DWR)

On March 14, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will release approximately 864,000 brood year 2015 fall Chinook salmon from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery into Battle Creek. This release will include 25% marked (adipose fin clip and CWT) and 75% unmarked fish

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

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 02/28/16 to 03/05/16				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl*	Sacramento Trawl	Chipps Island Trawl
CHNF	372		1	
CHNLF				
CHNW				
CHNS	10		1	
Ad-Clipped CHN	1		1	42
SH				
Ad-Clipped SH	1			8(1 acoustic tag)
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.

*No species of management concern

Jersey/Prisoners/Site 902 Trawls, No species of management concern

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 02/29/16 to 03/06/16								
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			4	3				
Total to Date			48	34	1	4	4	18
CHNLF								
Total to Date	32	26	8	7	61	272	36	159
CHNW			4	3				
Total to Date	74	59	20	16	119	540	6	26
CHNS			8	6				
Total to Date			16	10				
CHNU								
Total to Date								
SH	106.7				62		4	
Total to Date	306.7		28		320		14	

-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 10/1/14 (the start of water year 2015).
 -Data subject to revision.

Notes:

Since 3/6th there have been few Salmon

Steelhead have been caught mostly at the federal facility every day.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 02/29/16 to 03/06/16				
Species	CVP		SWP	
	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM	4	8		
LFS				
SPLT		16	4	51
GST		4		
WST				

-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.

Notes:

Smelt Monitoring Update provided by Trishelle Morris via DAT reflector (DFW):

We completed a full Smelt Larva Survey #5 (SLS) (44 stations) last week, 2/29 – 3/3/2016. No Delta Smelt have been detected yet in this survey. Processing is ongoing and data is preliminary and subject to change. This data is available on the SLS webpage: (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Delta/Smelt-Larva-Survey>).

Spring Kodiak Trawl is out this week, running March 7th -10th. Preliminary data will likely be posted to the SKT webpage Friday afternoon. (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Delta/Spring-Kodiak-Trawl>)

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

The Working Group reviewed current Delta Smelt distribution, salvage data, and Delta conditions. The Working Group agreed that the relative risk of entrainment to adult Delta Smelt likely has decreased. Members noted that spawning likely is well underway, and adults are most likely holding their positions, rather than continuing migration. In light of this, the group’s discussions primarily focused on the entrainment risk to larval Delta Smelt.

The Working Group described the risk of entrainment under the Service-provided advice framework. Under this framework the relative risk of entrainment for OMR flow ranges is discussed and assessed. For the current week, the risk of entrainment of larval Delta Smelt for each of the flow ranges is characterized as follows:

- -1250 to -2000 cfs has a low risk of entrainment,
- -2000 to -3500 cfs has a medium to high risk of entrainment,
- -3500 to -5000 cfs has a high risk of entrainment.

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 will continue to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions, and will meet again on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 10 am.

On March 8th, 2016 the Regional office issued a determination to have OMR flows no more negative than -5000 cfs

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 Update provided by Barb Byrne (NMFS)

Latest hatchery winter-run acoustic-tracking update based on 3/9/16 data download:

- 47% of the 570 acoustic-tagged fish have passed receivers at Tower Bridge
- 26% have passed Hood
- None yet observed at Middle River or in salvage

DOSS update:

- DOSS met Tuesday, 3/8/16, and provided no advice.
- DOSS notes are posted at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/ocapwy2016.html
- RPA Implementation
 - IV.1.2 (DCC ops): DCC gates have been closed since 12/15/15
 - IV.2.3 (OMR management):
 - No triggers exceeded over past week
 - OMR limit of -5,000 cfs is in effect
- Operations highlights
 - Today's exports are 2,400 (SWP) + 3,400 (CVP) = 5,800 cfs (combined)
 - Freeport flow = 39,918 cfs
 - Vernalis flow = 1,087 cfs
 - Delta outflow = ~55,200 cfs
 - Another peak in river flows expected on Saturday due to coming storm
 - Factor controlling exports: Since 2/12, the -5,000 cfs OMR limit for salmonid & sturgeon protection (under the NMFS BiOp), and the -5,000 cfs OMR limit for smelt protection (under the 2/10 FWS determination) have been co-controlling.
- Genetics
 - Most recent genetic results (testing unclipped Chinook collected through 2/25) have confirmed second genetic winter run (caught 2/22)
 - Cumulative genetic winter-run loss through 2/25 is 11.47
- Fish Monitoring Highlights
 - Movement of wild fish into Delta remains fairly low compared to catches seen during the wet January - data reviewed at DOSS almost all pre-storm; DOSS expects movement of wild fish to increase in response to increased flows/turbidities .
 - Are seeing hatchery WR throughout sampling in Delta, peak catch was 42 ad-clipped Chinook at the Chipps Island Trawl (most likely hatchery WR)
 - **WR-acoustic tracking**: Based on 3/7/16 data download
 - ~44% of the 570 acoustic-tagged fish have passed receivers at Tower Bridge
 - None yet observed at Middle River
 - **Salvage**:
 - Salvage of wild Chinook and steelhead has been low over past week.
 - First salvage of hatchery WR occurred Sunday (2 fish collected for salvage of 8)
 - Salvage of hatchery steelhead quite high over past week; fish are likely from the Nimbus hatchery releases into the American River in February
- Hatchery releases
 - The Mokelumne River Hatchery releasing 50,000 yearling steelhead at New Hope Landing (near Walnut Grove) on 3/7/16 and 3/8/16
- Fish Distribution Estimates (no change since last week for WR or SR, substantial shift for hatchery WR)
 - Estimate of young-of-year **winter-run Chinook** distribution: <5% upstream, >95% in the Delta, <5% exited the Delta
 - Estimate of young-of-year **spring-run Chinook** distribution: 30-40% upstream, 60-70% in the Delta, 0-5% exited the Delta
 - Estimate of young-of-year **hatchery winter-run Chinook** distribution: 5-25% upstream, 50-80% in the Delta, 10-40% exited the Delta

- Entrainment risks (primarily to Winter-run and Spring-run Chinook; minor changes since last week)
 - Overall Entrainment into **Interior Delta**: MEDIUM
 - Overall Entrainment into **CVP/SWP Export Facilities**:
 - OMR -2,500 cfs to -3,500 cfs: MEDIUM
 - OMR -3,500 cfs to -5,000 cfs: MEDIUM to HIGH

Full DOSS notes posted at:

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

Operations update provided by Jessie Cheng (DWR)

Preliminary Summary for 03/10/2016			
SWP		CVP	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	3,100	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	3,400
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	587	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	348
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	935	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	15,000
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	800	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	3,250
		Stanislaus-Goodwin Reservoir Releases (cfs)	200
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow (cfs)	~66,500	Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates	closed
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	~64,577	1 average OMR (cfs)	-1540
X2 (km)	=68	5 day average OMR (cfs)	-4989
Export/Inflow (%)	22.7% (14-day average)	14 day average OMR (cfs)	-4990

Delta conditions: excess

Controlling factor: OMR (-5000)

A summary of daily operations can also be viewed at

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

Next Conference Call:

Thursday, March 17th at 11am.

Final DAT notes can be viewed at

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