

CALFED Ops Group Meeting Notes
Meeting Date: 04/25/07

Announcements

None made.

State Water Resources Control Board Activities

There will be a staff level in-house workshop on or about May 19 to review qualifications of a consultant to use for analysis of modeling results of south Delta water quality objectives. The consultant would ultimately make a recommendation as to whether to keep or change existing south Delta objectives. The workshop will be publicly noticed. DWR sent the SWRCB a letter on a potential exceedence of south Delta standards. The SWRCB will put the letter on its website after it is received.

Ongoing Activities Related to Ops Group

Nothing to report.

Fishery Status

Chinook (Spring Run) – Spring-run “take” appears to have been managed well this year. The “incidental take” limit was 2%, so far only .04% have been taken at project export facilities.

Steelhead – The “take” limit for steelhead is approaching the maximum uthorized value of 3,000 juvenile fish. This limit may be exceeded in about 10 days. Export reductions due to the VAMP experiment may help, but it is doubtful. NMFS is looking at actions it may take if the limit is exceeded.

Green Sturgeon – The “take” at the pumps has been holding steady over the last two months, it hasn’t increased. New rules for green sturgeon take will be published in June, 2007 in the Federal Register.

Delta smelt –The most recent mid-water trawl surveys didn’t show any significant changes in smelt population. Distribution remains a concern, they are all in the north Delta, none have been found in the south Delta. The fifth Kodiak trawl occurred last week. The estimated “take” at export facilities is 60, all are at the CVP Tracy facility. The DSWG has recommended keeping in place the upper OMR target of -5,000 cfs. The CVP and SWP have operated to that target. DSWG expects that spawning is still occurring. Water temperatures are about 60 degrees.

Work Group Updates

DAT Update – Continues to meet weekly. No recommendations this month. Agree with DSWG findings. VAMP began on April 22, Mossdale catches of salmon are increasing and are being monitored.

WOMT Update –. Both projects have been operated to meet the upper limit target of no greater than -5000 cfs at OMR.

VAMP Update –. Ramping up of releases began on April 19. The target flow is 3,200 cfs. Two days ago, the measured flow was 3,240 cfs, yesterday was 3,180 cfs. All barriers are in place and operating. The USGS is recalibrating a gaging station error and it should be fixed in a few more days.

Operations Status

CVP – Will declare “excess” conditions in the Delta soon.

SWP –. Nothing to report beyond normal operations.