

CALFED Ops Group Meeting Notes
Meeting Date: 01/24/07

Announcements

None made.

State Water Resources Control Board Activities

SWRCB workshops on South Delta objectives were held earlier. The Joint Point of Diversion Fisheries Response Plan has been submitted to the SWRCB by DWR and Reclamation and its review is mostly completed. The final SWRCB response to the submittal is being prepared and is almost ready for Vicky Whitney's signature.

Ongoing Activities Related to Ops Group

None reported.

Fishery Status

Chinook (Winter Run) Sacramento River winter run salmon are doing well. The carcass survey was 17,205 adults, about 2,300 were hatchery fish (approx. 13% of total). There were 8,811 female fish. The recovery goal was 10,000 females, therefore they are approaching the recovery goal. Some winter-run returned to Battle Creek (estimated 36 fish). There have been few winter-run showing up at project Delta export facilities, estimated at 131 total, losses are low and NOAA doesn't expect a significant increase. 200,000 hatchery fish were released February 2nd near Red Bluff.

Chinook (Spring Run) The numbers are approximately average numbers with a slight decrease from last year. Two surrogate releases were made, the ones showing up at the Delta pump facilities are very small, about 1/2 %.

Steelhead – Nimbus took in a total of 1,821 fish which is a very good return, most are hatchery fish, about 1-2% are wild. The Stanislaus River return was very low, only about 7, not much of an available run.

Delta smelt –The fall mid-water trawl index is the second lowest on record, the lowest index was last year. The first Kodiak trawl found no smelt in south Bay, most were in Suisun Bay. The next trawl will take place in the first week of February. The fish found so far are immature as water temperatures are still low. The salvage of smelt at Delta pumps is still at zero. The Delta smelt Working Group has asked that Old and Middle River flows remain between -3500 and -5000 cfs since January 15. Presently, flows are about -4000 cfs. The group has also made a formal recommendation that the spring Head

of Old River barrier not be put into place in 2007, regarding agricultural barrier operation, they are still analyzing available particle tracking results.

Work Group Updates

DAT Update – Several recommendations have been made this year including closure of the Delta cross channel for salmon migration.

WOMT Update – WOMT has been meeting weekly and responding to DAT recommendations. The projects are currently meeting the Old and Middle River flow limitation for Delta smelt and are using the Environmental Water Account to cover water costs of the action. All export cuts so far have been made at SWP facilities

Operations Status

John Leahigh and Peggy Manza gave status reports on operations of the State and Federal projects. Several SWRCB mandated provisions that deal with February requirements on the heels of a dry January are being discussed, mainly X2 location and the E/I ratio. In summary, Chipps X2 for February will most likely be between 0-14 days, Port Chicago X2 will most likely *not* be triggered, Collinsville X2 requirements are not known yet, the E/I ratio will most likely be set at .45.