

**CALFED Ops Group Meeting Notes**  
**Meeting Date: 03/28/07**

**Announcements**

None made.

**State Water Resources Control Board Activities**

SWRCB workshops on Pelagic Organism Decline were held earlier this March and completed..

**Ongoing Activities Related to Ops Group**

Nothing to report.

**Fishery Status**

Chinook (Winter Run) 2,882 total have been taken to date. NMFS expects that we are through the “peak” take of winter-run. Most are going out past Chipps Island. Young-of-year are being seen in the fishery monitoring surveys.

Chinook (Spring Run) Only about .02% are estimated to have been “taken” with the “take” limit at 2%. The “take” limit was 3,000 fish.

Steelhead – Estimated “take” is 1,417 about half of the total limit; NMFS is looking at the data, steelhead are still coming in, but at low numbers.

Green Sturgeon – Two more were “taken” at the CVP facilities which brings the total “taken” to 185 fish. Most of the fish are juveniles. The split of “take” is about 17% SWP – 83% CVP.

Delta smelt –Three Kodiak trawls and three supplemental trawls were completed. Estimated total abundance is very low, comparable to last years’ results. Smelt have been caught at the fewest number of stations (total of 39 stations) . Most of these have been on the Sacramento River, not in the central or south Delta. The total salvage to dat is 36, all at the CVP facilities. Water temperatures have been rising, the females are now ripe and some juveniles are showing up in the trawls. Spawning probably occurred 3-4 weeks ago. The Delta Smelt Working Group (DSWG) has recommended the continuation of a moderate Old and Middle River flow between -3,500 and -5,000 cfs.. EWA debt for the action to date is about 160 TAF. The Head of Old River Barrier was originally recommended not to be put in place this year but because of the measured distribution of Delta smelt in the north Delta and the low combined export rate during VAMP, the

earlier recommendation has been withdrawn. Therefore, the HORB and three agricultural barriers will be operated this year.

### **Work Group Updates**

OFF Update – CCWD may convene a call on the proposed barrier operation for this year. CCWD will notify the group if it decides to have a call.

DAT Update – No new operational recommendations were made this month. DAT is talking with DSWG about the VAMP experiment and watching the take of green sturgeon; no alarm so far.

WOMT Update – The major things that the CVP and SWP have been discussing in the last few WOMT meetings have been the installation of the HORB and agricultural barriers and tracking the movement, distribution and maturity of the measurements of this years' Delta smelt population.

VAMP Update –Lowell Ploss handed out a description of this years' VAMP experiment. The likely target flow is 3,200 cfs at Vernalis with combined total exports at 1,500 cfs.

### **Operations Status**

CVP – Reservoir releases will go up to increase Delta Outflow. The CVP will drop one unit at Tracy Pumping Plant due to meeting the 0.35 E/I ratio.

SWP – There will be 25 X2-days in April per SWRCB requirements. 160 TAF of EWA debt has accrued so far. Additional EWA expenditures prior to and during VAMP are estimated at about 100 TAF more. SWP allocations are still being held at 60%.