

**CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES**  
**Wednesday, December 11, 2013**  
**1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**SWRCB Update (R. Satkowski)**

- Craig Wilson (Delta Water Master) attended the meeting and reported that the SWRCB had asked him to attend this and future CALFED Ops meetings.
- Term 91 has been extended due to prolonged dry conditions and remains in effect.
- SWRCB and DSC will co-sponsor a two-day workshop on February 10 and 11 to explore the topic: Delta Outflow and Related Stressors. The workshop is being held to provide the SWRCB with supplemental information to support their Phase II efforts to update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan.

**Fisheries Update**

**Chinook Salmon, Steelhead and Green Sturgeon (B. Byrne)**

**Brief fish monitoring update:**

The most recent fish monitoring graphs were provided to the DAT/Calfed Ops list-serv by Farida Islam (DWR) on Tuesday, 12/10. Older-juvenile Chinook salmon (unmarked juvenile Chinook that fall between the minimum winter-run size and maximum size considered in the length-at-date chart; this includes young-of-year winter-run, yearling late-full run, yearling fall-run, and yearling spring-run Chinook salmon) are still being reported in rotary screw trap catches at Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) and the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) diversion. Older juveniles have not been reported since late October and mid-October at the Tisdale and Knights Landing (KL) rotary screw trap sampling locations, respectively. Note that the trap efficiencies at the more downstream Tisdale and KL sampling locations are lower than at RBDD or GCID because the traps cover a much smaller fraction of the channel.

Few listed salmonids have been observed in the delta monitoring since October 1, and no listed salmonids have been salvaged since October 1 at either the CVP or SWP fish collection facilities.

**DOSS**

DOSS met on Tuesday, 12/10, and provided no advice to NMFS or WOMT.

### **RPA Actions:**

- IV.1.1 (alerts related to Delta Cross Channel (DCC) operations): No alerts tripped in the past week.
- IV.1.2 (DCC operations): No triggers exceeded in the past week.
- IV.3 (export reductions): No triggers exceeded in the past week; this action will end December 31.
- IV.2.3 (OMR flows): This action begins January 1.

### **Note on Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE) timeline**

One of the four triggers in the OMR Action (Action IV.2.3), which goes into effect January 1, depends on the juvenile production estimate (JPE) of winter-run Chinook salmon entering the delta. NMFS has not yet received all components (e.g. 2013 adult escapement) needed to calculate the JPE. The Winter-run Project Work Team is reviewing data that may inform the in-river survival component of the JPE calculation. As in past years, NMFS may provide a preliminary JPE for use until the final JPE is available.

**Late-Fall-Run Chinook Release:** A production release of 275,000 brood-year 2013 late-fall run Chinook (average fork length =135mm) occurred yesterday, December 10 from Coleman National Fish Hatchery (CNFH). Because 100% of the fish are marked (clipped adipose fin and coded wire tagged), these fish will not contribute to any “older juvenile” trigger, even if some might fall into the winter-run juvenile size class.

### **Late-Fall-Run Surrogates for Yearling Spring-Run Releases:**

In late November, DOSS provided the following guidance regarding the release schedule for the three spring-run surrogate groups (genetic late-fall run fish released as surrogates for naturally-produced spring-run yearling outmigrants) at Coleman National Fish Hatchery:

- **Production release:** early December, with first significant rainfall event (*this release occurred 12/10/13*)
- **1st surrogate release:** mid-December, ideally at least a week apart from the production release and coincident with a rainfall event

- **2nd surrogate release:** 2-3 weeks after the 1st release, ideally coincident with a rainfall event
- **3rd surrogate release:** 2-3 weeks after the 2nd release, ideally coincident with a rainfall event

The spring-run Chinook surrogates are used to track incidental take at the export facilities, and, if the estimated loss of any spring-run surrogate release group at the export facilities exceeds 0.5% of the release group size, an action response is required per Action IV.3 (export reduction; this action ends December 31) and Action IV.2.3 (OMR management; this action does not take effect until January 1)

#### RPA Action III.1.2 –

The current temperature criterion calls for temperature (measured as the seven day average of daily maximum temperature, or 7DADM) to be below 56°F at OBB. That criterion went into effect on 10/23/13, the initiation date of the main attraction pulse within the reshaped fall pulse flow. Daily maximum temperatures have not exceeded 56°F since 10/30/13. The 7DADM has been below 56°F since 11/3/13.

**Delta smelt** (E. Gleason) – NTR.

**Longfin smelt** (C. Dibble) - NTR.

#### Water Project Operations

CVP – Keswick @ 3750 cfs; Nimbus @ 1300 cfs; Goodwin @ 200 cfs; Jones PP @ 1000 cfs; San Luis (Fed share) @ 296 TAF; DCC in Closed position

SWP – Oroville @ 1250 cfs; Clifton Court @ 1,500 cfs; San Luis (State share) @ 240 TAF.