

WOMT Summary 12/5/2006 revised

DAT reported a decision to WOMT. Three criteria in the Salmon Decision Process were exceeded.

- “First Alert”, observing yearling spring run in the tributary traps occurred on 11/03/2006
- “Second Alert”, a 20% increase in flow at Wilkins Slough occurred between 11/26/2006 and 11/29/2006
- 4 older juvenile Chinook were caught at the Knights Landing rotary screw trap on 12/4/2006

The potential action associated with these criteria is a four-day closure of the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates, as long as water quality criteria are met. The DAT salmon biologists decided not to request USBR to close the DCC for the following reasons 1) only 6 yearling Chinook have been observed in the Mill Creek rotary screw trap since 11/3/2006 (the Deer Creek trap isn't rotating yet because the flows are too low); 2) the flow pulse at Wilkins Slough was not sustained, 3) the salmon CVPIA Delta Action 8 Experiment (DA8) releases were made today (Tuesday, 12/5/2006) and the 2006 DA8 protocol specifies the DCC gates to be open, 4) the DAT salmon biologists agreed the benefit of the information gained from the DA8 experiment outweighed the detriment of the impact of a few yearling spring Chinook passing the DCC open, and 5) water quality in the Delta is marginal and a DCC gate closure could exceed the water quality criteria. This year the DA8 experiment involves significant ultra-sonic tagging which will provide important information about hydrodynamics and fish behavior at the DCC. The tagged fish should pass the DCC in a few days and the DCC could be closed thereafter. DAT will review updated information, and consider the DCC gate operation at the next DAT conference call, 12/12/2006.

Based on the information from the DAT, WOMT concurred with the DAT decision.

Please note new contact information

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