

WOMT Notes

May 12, 2015 Meeting

1. General Information:

CVP

- *Trinity River releases @ 2800 cfs and increasing (Pulse Flow in progress)*
- *Keswick Releases to upper Sacramento River @ 7500 cfs*
- *Nimbus Releases to lower American River @ 1250 cfs*
- *Goodwin Release to Stanislaus River @ 150 cfs*
- *Jones Pumping Plant @ 800 cfs today, plant is cycling off one day/on next day*
- *Delta Cross-Channel Gates: Closed.*
- *Federal Share of San Luis 355 TAF*

SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 3750 cfs*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 400 cfs*
- *State Share of San Luis @ 851 TAF*

Delta

- *Freeport Flow approx. 6,500 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow approx. 450 cfs*
- *Delta Outflow approx. 5,200 cfs*

OMR (cfs):

- INDEX (as of 5/9/2015):
5 day average: -1080 cfs,
- USGS (as of 5/9/2015):
5-day: -1170 cfs

FISHERY UPDATES:

DOSS

Advice to NMFS: None at present time

Delta RPA Actions affecting operations during May:

Action IV.1.2 (DCC gate operations):

- Default DCC gate closure. Gates may be opened on Thursday.

Action IV.2.3 (OMR Flow Management)

- The OMR limit of no more negative than -5,000 cfs is in effect.

Action IV.2.1 (I:E ratio)

- Currently, the Critical year 1:1 ratio (of San Joaquin inflow at Vernalis to combined CVP/SWP exports) is in effect. This action restricts combined exports to 100% of Vernalis flow, or 1,500 cfs, whichever is greater.

DOSS Estimates of Fish Distribution

DOSS estimates of the current distribution of listed Chinook and steelhead, as a percentage of the population, are based on recent monitoring data and historical migration timing patterns. The table below reflects current distribution.

Location	Yet to Enter Delta (Upstream of Knights Landing)	In the Delta	Exited the Delta (Past Chipps Island)
Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon (naturally produced)	>99% out of Delta; Generally done migrating with the exception of a few stragglers. (Last week: same)		
YOY winter-run Chinook salmon (hatchery-produced)	>99% out of Delta; Generally done migrating with the exception of a few stragglers. (Last week: same)		
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon ^A	Few stragglers (last week: Few stragglers only to 5%)	15% (last week: 20%)	85% (last week: 80%)
Yearling spring-run Chinook salmon ^B	>99% out of Delta; Generally done migrating with the exception of a few stragglers. (last week: same)		
Hatchery steelhead ^C	>95% out of Delta; Generally done migrating with the exception of a few stragglers. (Last week: same)		
Sacramento River steelhead (naturally- produced)	Limited catch data		
San Joaquin River steelhead ^D	<5% (last week: 5%)	10% (last week: 10%)	90% (last week: 85% - 90%)

^A Chipp Island Trawl data of spring-run is difficult to interpret now that the 75% unmarked fall-run productions are likely masking the wild spring-run Chinook catch.

^B No yearling spring-run Chinook salmon have been caught in 2014 monitoring. In general, very few yearling spring-run Chinook salmon are observed because of their relatively large size and strong swimming (and associated gear avoidance) abilities.

^C Difficult to assess now that all hatchery releases are in the system (CNFH, Feather River Fish Hatchery, and Mokelumne Fish Hatchery released as usual; Nimbus Hatchery released their steelhead in the spring of 2014 because of expected unsuitable hatchery water temperatures during the summer of 2014). Percentages are intended to capture distribution of steelhead that migrate out; not those that may residualize.

^D Have observed a few juvenile steelhead in monitoring data. Distribution estimates are also based on 10 years of historical data from Mossdale Trawls (on the San Joaquin River) and RST data from Caswell Park (on the Stanislaus River), as well as on recent flow and water temperature conditions.

DOSS Feedback on Entrainment Risk

Entrainment risk of fish from the Sacramento River into the Interior Delta (same as last week except for tidal conditions):

DOSS noted that generally, there is an increased risk of entrainment into the interior Delta during spring tides, compared to during neap tides, at any OMR level. During a spring tide, tidal conditions extend further upstream and may, for example, create conditions at Georgiana Slough (e.g., reverse flows) that are associated with routing into Georgiana Slough, a route to the interior Delta. Currently, the Delta is experiencing a neap tide.

DOSS notes that the DCC opening may increase the risk of entrainment into the interior Delta for fish in the vicinity of the DCC. The DCC matrix triggers are in place to reduce the risk.

Entrainment risk of fish in the Interior Delta into the CVP/SWP facilities (same as last week):

DOSS assessed the current risk of entrainment for listed salmonids. For listed salmonids in the Delta, the current risk of entrainment for each OMR flow range was characterized as follows:

- -1,200 to -2,000 cfs has a medium risk of entrainment
- -2,000 to -3,500 cfs has a medium to high risk of entrainment
- -3,500 to -5,000 cfs has a high risk of entrainment

SWG – Group met Monday, no advice. Continue to monitor and meet, next meeting is next Monday.

NMFS – No determination needed.

USFWS – No determination at this time.

DFW – No determination.

SWRCB:

- **Division of Water Rights** – Drought Workshop will be held on May 20; take public comments on proposed water transfers, diversion curtailment orders, TUCP requests and approvals and emergency drought barrier.
- **Office of Delta Watermaster** - Nothing to report.

2. WOMT Decisions - None