

WOMT Notes

May 19, 2015 Meeting

1. General Information:

CVP

- *Trinity River releases @ 2000 cfs and decreasing to 450 cfs on June 30 (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 @ 0 for week due to switchyard outage*
- *Delta Cross-Channel Gates: Closed.*
- *Federal Share of San Luis 337 TAF*

SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 3250 cfs to 2750 cfs tomorrow*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 600 cfs (200 cfs is CVP due to Jones outage)*
- *State Share of San Luis @ ??? TAF*

Delta

- *Freeport Flow approx. 7,700 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow approx. 500 cfs*
- *Delta Outflow approx. ??? cfs*

OMR (cfs):

- INDEX (as of 5/16/2015):
5 day average: -1300 cfs,
- USGS (as of 5/9/2015):
5-day: -1530 cfs

FISHERY UPDATES:

DOSS

DOSS Advice to WOMT and NMFS: None.

Delta RPA Actions affecting operations during May:

Action IV.1.2 (DCC gate operations):

- DCC gates were opened Thursday, May 14, and closed Monday, May 18, as allowed per the DCC trigger matrix¹ in the current Drought Operations plan.

Action IV.2.3 (OMR Flow Management)

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

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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

¹ <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2014/10/Attachment-G-of-the-2014-Operations-Plan.pdf>

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: same)	5% (last week: 15%)	95% (last week: 85%)
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	>99% out of Delta; Generally done migrating with the exception of a few stragglers. (Last week: >95% out of Delta)		
Sacramento River steelhead (naturally- produced)	Limited catch data		
San Joaquin River steelhead ^D	Few stragglers (last week: <5%)	5% (last week: 10%)	95% (last week: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 spring tide.

DOSS notes that a DCC opening (planned for 5/22/15; closing expected 5/26/15) may increase the risk of entrainment into the interior Delta for fish in the vicinity of the DCC. However, DCC gate opening between 5/21 and 6/15 is allowed per both D-1641 and the NMFS BiOp's RPA Action IV.1.2, and so this opening doesn't represent any change in risk to migrating salmonids relative to typical operations.

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

DOSS notes that the shift in pumping to the SWP facility may mean greater facility loss since the SWP is less efficient.

Next Meeting: The next DOSS conference call will be on 5/26/15 at 9am.

SWG – Group met Monday, no advice. Low to medium risk of entrainment at current, low OMR levels. 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