

WOMT Notes

December 22, 2015 Meeting

1. General Information:

CVP

- *Keswick Releases to upper Sacramento River @ 4250 cfs today, decreasing 250 cfs per day to 3250 cfs on Dec. 26*
- *Nimbus Releases to lower American River @ 500 cfs*
- *Goodwin Release to Stanislaus River @ 200 cfs*
- *Jones Pumping Plant @ 1600 cfs today, 2600 cfs Friday (12/25)*
- *Delta Cross-Channel Gates: Closed*
- *Federal Share of San Luis @ 78 TAF*

SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 950 cfs*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 2000 cfs, 3000 cfs tomorrow*
- *State Share of San Luis @ 272 TAF*

Delta

- *Freeport Flow approx. 13,200 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow approx. 700 cfs*
- *Delta Outflow approx. 13,200 cfs*

- *E/I Ratio 17% (3 day avg.), 19% (14 day avg.)*

OMR (cfs):

- INDEX (as of 12/19/2015):
 - 1087 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 830 cfs (14 day avg.)
- USGS (as of 12/19/2015):
 - 995 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 715 cfs (14 day avg.)

FISHERY UPDATES:

DOSS – WR: Less than 90% upstream of Delta, More than 10% in or out of Delta. Recommendation to NMFS: Since the JPE will be determined after January 1; use default minimum loss density triggers for OMR restrictions commencing January 1 (Action IV.2.3) of 2.5 older juvenile Chinook salmon per taf exports for reduction to -3500 cfs reduction and 5.0 older juvenile Chinook salmon per taf exports for reduction to -2500 cfs.

SWG – The Working Group reviewed current Delta smelt distribution, salvage data and Delta conditions. SWG agreed there was no need for a change in planned exports for Delta smelt protection. Increased exports resulting in more negative OMR's are expected to coincide with increased levels of turbidity as the week progresses. Entrainment risk may need to be reassessed if data indicate Delta smelt are beginning to move (e.g. increased catches from early warning surveys: formation of a turbidity bridge). SWG is looking to part B of Action 1 and will be monitoring turbidity and salvage catch at Jersey Point and Prisoner's Point. No concern with longfin smelt either at this time. Chad Dibble of CFW reminded the group that the potential Barker Slough pump restriction would not begin prior to Jan. 15. Next SWG meeting is Monday, Dec. 28.

NMFS – Brycen Swart (NMFS) reported that since the official JPE for winter-run salmon will not be available until after Jan.1 and that the first and second stage triggers for

Action IV.2.3 are anticipated to be less than the minimum loss density trigger levels, Action IV.2.3 should be implemented using the minimum loss density trigger levels of 2.5 and 5.0 older juvenile Chinook salmon per taf exports.

USFWS – No determination at this time.

DFW – No determination.

SWRCB:

Division of Water Rights – Nothing to report

Delta Watermaster's Office – Christine Rico asked about the outreach process for the “roll-out” of the Drought Contingency Plan. Rich Satkowski also added that the SWRCB is particularly interested in carryover storage levels in Shasta and Folsom reservoirs. John Leahigh (DWR) noted that the draft plan is posted on DWR's website and reported that the outreach and carryover storage levels are topics in RTDOMT meetings and other high-level discussions with no decisions being finalized at this point.

2. WOMT Decisions - None