

WOMT Notes

February 17, 2016 Meeting

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

CVP

- *Keswick Releases to upper Sacramento River @ 3250 cfs*
- *Nimbus Releases to lower American River @ 3000 cfs*
- *Goodwin Release to Stanislaus River @ 200 cfs*
- *Jones Pumping Plant @ 3400 cfs*
- *Delta Cross-Channel Gates: Closed*
- *Federal Share of San Luis @ 254 TAF*

SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 950 cfs*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 2,400 cfs*
- *State Share of San Luis @ 545 TAF*

Delta

- *Freeport Flow @. 15,819 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow @ 891 cfs*
- *Delta Outflow approx. 10,800 cfs*

- *E/I Ratio 24 % (14 day average)*
- *X2 @ 71 km*
- *Factor Constraining Operations :OMR no more negative than -5000 cfs per USFWS determination and Action IV.2.3 of NMFS Biological Opinion (both simultaneously apply)*

OMR (cfs) (Not including CCWD Rock Slough exports):

- INDEX (as of 2/14/2016):
 - 4600 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 3373 cfs (14 day avg.)
- USGS (as of 2/14/2016):
 - 4336 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 3139 cfs (14 day avg.)

FISHERY UPDATES:

DOSS –

- DOSS met this morning and provided no advice
- RPA IV.1.2: DCC Gates closed since Dec. 15
- RPA IV.2.3: No triggers exceeded past week, OMR limit of -5000 cfs in effect
- Genetic results from unclipped Chinook collected at CVP and SWP export facilities from 1/17 through 2/7 show 1 genetic winter-run
- Fish movement into Delta remains low compared to January
- Still seeing medium (primarily YOY fall-run) in seines; WR outmigration from the Delta typically peaks in March and YOY spring-run in April/May
- Salvage of steelhead low; salvage of Chinook sporadic
- Estimate of young-of-year winter-run Chinook distribution: 5-10% upstream, 90-95% in Delta, 0-5% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year spring-run Chinook distribution: 35-45% upstream, 55-65% in Delta, 0-5% exited Delta;

- Overall entrainment risk for young-of-year winter-run and young-of-year spring-run in Interior Delta: MEDIUM
- Overall entrainment risk for young-of-year winter-run and young-of-year spring-run in CVP/SWP Export Facilities:
LOW-MEDIUM for OMR between -2500 cfs to -3500 cfs;
MEDIUM for OMR between -3500 cfs to -5000 cfs

SWG –

Delta Smelt – The Working Group reviewed current Delta Smelt distribution, salvage data, and Delta conditions. The Working Group described the risk of entrainment under the Service-provided advice framework. Under this framework the relative risk of entrainment for OMR flow ranges is discussed and assessed. For the current week, the risk of entrainment of adult delta smelt for each of the flow ranges is characterized as follows:

- -1250 to -2000 cfs has a medium risk of entrainment,
- -2000 to -3500 cfs has a high risk of entrainment,
- -3500 to -5000 cfs has a high risk of entrainment.

The Working Group is following guidance for entrainment protections from both Action 2 (adult Delta Smelt) and Action 3 (juvenile Delta Smelt). The risk values provided for this week refer only to adult fish as there currently is no evidence of hatching. The Working Group will continue to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions, and will meet again on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 10 am.

Longfin Smelt – Advice for week of February 16, 2016: The Smelt Working Group does not have any advice for Longfin Smelt based on recent information. No Barker Slough operations advice is warranted at this time.

SWRCB:

Division of Water Rights – Nothing to report

Delta Watermaster's Office – Nothing to report

REGULATORY AGENCY FINDINGS –

NMFS – No new determination needed. Reiterated the need for Projects to request from NMFS an extension of the OMR index demonstration project. Asked about the status of Reclamation's letter regarding implementation of rapid genetic testing.

USFWS – Aware of the SWG meeting and advice. Most recent determination remains in effect at this time.

DFW – No determination.

WOMT Decisions - None