

WOMT Notes

February 23, 2016 Meeting

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

CVP

- *Keswick Releases to upper Sacramento River @ 3250 cfs*
- *Nimbus Releases to lower American River @ 7200 cfs (flood evacuation), ramping down starting tomorrow*
- *Goodwin Release to Stanislaus River @ 200 cfs*
- *Jones Pumping Plant @ 3400 cfs*
- *Delta Cross-Channel Gates: Closed*
- *Federal Share of San Luis @ 284 TAF*

SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 950 cfs*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 2,400 cfs*
- *State Share of San Luis @ 560 TAF*

Delta

- *Freeport Flow @. 17,940 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow @ 868 cfs*
- *Delta Outflow approx. 13,200 cfs*

- *E/I Ratio 30 % (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 2/20/2016):
 - 4980 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 4420 cfs (14 day avg.)
- USGS (as of 2/20/2016):
 - 5340 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 4460 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
- Movement of wild fish into the Delta remains low compared to catches in wet January.
- Still seeing medium catches (primarily YOY fall-run) of wild fish in seines; not surprising given that many Chinook and steelhead that moved into the Delta in the past few months are still in the Delta.
- Hatchery WR (420K release on Feb. 17-18) showing up in monitoring; high catch at GCID, medium at Tisdale RST and low at Knights Landing RST.
- WR- acoustic tagging – first tagged fish reached Tower Bridge on Feb. 22

- Salvage of wild Chinook and steelhead low; salvage of hatchery steelhead very high – likely due to Nimbus hatchery release.
- 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: 30-40% upstream, 60-70% in Delta, 0-5% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year hatchery winter-run Chinook distribution: > 95% upstream, 0-5% in Delta, 0% 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, Delta conditions and 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 29, 2016 at 10 am.

Longfin Smelt – The Smelt Working Group does not have any advice for Longfin Smelt based on recent information. Barker Slough restrictions limiting maximum pumping to 50 cfs on a seven day average basis are effective until further notice due to the detection of longfin smelt at Station 716 in a recent survey. DFW will provide documentation of their determination to Aaron Miller, DWR.

SWRCB:

Division of Water Rights – Nothing to report

Delta Watermaster's Office – Nothing to report

REGULATORY AGENCY FINDINGS –

NMFS – No new determination needed.

- Reiterated need for Projects to request from NMFS an extension of the OMR index demonstration project.
- Requested that Reclamation find out the status of its letter to NMFS regarding implementation of rapid genetic testing. If there are issues associated with signing the letter, meet with relevant agencies to discuss and resolve.

USFWS – Aware of the SWG meeting and advice. Most recent determination remains in effect at this time. The USFWS has formally notified USBR and DWR that they want larval sampling to begin at the export facilities beginning March 1.

DFW – Barker Slough restriction in effect as noted.

WOMT Decisions - None