

## WOMT Notes

March 8, 2016 Meeting

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

#### CVP

- *Keswick Releases to upper Sacramento River @ 3250 cfs*
- *Nimbus Releases to lower American River @ 15,000 cfs for storage management*
- *Goodwin Release to Stanislaus River @ 200 cfs*
- *Jones Pumping Plant @ 3400 cfs*
- *Delta Cross-Channel Gates: Closed*
- *Federal Share of San Luis @ 336 TAF*

#### SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 800 cfs*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 2,400 cfs*
- *State Share of San Luis @ 579 TAF*

#### Delta

- *Freeport Flow @. 39,918 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow @ 1087 cfs*
- *Delta Outflow approx. 55,210 cfs*

- *E/I Ratio 26 % (14 day average)*
- *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 3/5/2016):
  - 4980 cfs (5 day avg.)
  - 4990 cfs (14 day avg.)
- USGS (as of 3/5/2016):
  - 5590 cfs (5 day avg.) – (caused by storm surge of +1 ft in tide)
  - 5240 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
- Most recent genetic results confirmed second wild winter-run salvaged on Feb. 22; cumulative genetic winter-run loss through 2/25 is 11.47
- Movement of wild fish into the Delta remains low compared to catches in wet January; expect movement of wild fish to increase in response to increased river flows
- Seeing hatchery WR throughout sampling in Delta, peak catch was 42 ad-clipped Chinook at Chipps Island Trawl
- WR- acoustic tagging – 44% of the 570 acoustic-tagged fish passed receivers at Tower Bridge; None yet observed at Middle River.
- Mokelumne River Hatchery is releasing 50,000 yearling steelhead at New Hope Landing on 3/7-8
- Estimate of young-of-year winter-run Chinook distribution: Less than 5% upstream, Greater than 95% in Delta, Less than 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: 5-25% upstream, 50-80% in Delta, 10-40% 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:  
MEDIUM for OMR between -2500 cfs to -3500 cfs;  
MEDIUM to HIGH 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 agreed that the relative risk of entrainment to adult Delta Smelt likely has decreased. Members noted that spawning likely is well underway, and adults are most likely holding their positions, rather than continuing migration. In light of this, the SWG discussion focused on avoiding entrainment of larval Delta smelt.

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 larval Delta Smelt for each of the flow ranges is characterized as follows:

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

The SWG is following guidance for entrainment protections from both Action 2 (adult Delta Smelt) and Action 3 (juvenile Delta Smelt). The Working Group will continue to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions, and will meet again on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 10 am.

**Longfin Smelt –** . The Smelt Working Group does not have any advice for Longfin Smelt based on recent information.

Longfin Smelt larvae were detected at stations influenced by Barker Slough operations so the condition that Barker Slough diversions not exceed 50 cfs remains in effect, but based on current operations, no adjustment is needed.

**SWRCB:**

**Division of Water Rights** – Nothing to report

**Delta Watermaster's Office** – Nothing to report

**REGULATORY AGENCY FINDINGS** –

**NMFS** – No determination needed.

**USFWS** – Aware of the SWG meeting and advice. Preparing a new determination, likely to be out tomorrow.

**DFW** – Nothing additional to report.

**WOMT Decisions** - None