

WOMT Notes

March 15, 2016 Meeting

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

CVP

- *Keswick Releases to upper Sacramento River @ 5000 cfs*
- *Nimbus Releases to lower American River @ 20,000 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 @ 368 TAF*

SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 800 cfs*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 3600 cfs*
- *State Share of San Luis @ 608 TAF*

Delta

- *Freeport Flow @. 76,108 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow @ 3453 cfs*
- *Delta Outflow approx. 140,444 cfs*

- *E/I Ratio 12 % (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 3/12/2016):
 - 5000 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 5000 cfs (14 day avg.)
- USGS (as of 3/12/2016):
 - 4780 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 5120 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
- Seeing continued ad-clipped Chinook (likely hatchery WR) in river and Delta monitoring, including 13 at Sac trawl and 20 at Chipps trawl
- Also uptick in wild Chinook catch as well; primarily in fall-sized fish (but DOSS notes that WR and SR pops are less abundant than FR, so not surprising signal is so clear)
- WR- acoustic tagging – 48% of the 570 acoustic-tagged fish passed receivers at Tower Bridge; None yet observed at Middle River.
- Salvage of wild Chinook and steelhead has been low over past week; a few hatchery WR collected in salvage counts past week; salvage of hatchery steelhead (likely from Nimbus hatchery releases) still fairly high past week
- Coleman National Hatchery released 864,400 BY 2015 fall-run Chinook into Battle Creek yesterday on 3/14

- Reclamation releasing second group of marked steelhead for 6 year study near Durham Ferry this week
- Estimate of young-of-year winter-run Chinook distribution: Less than 1% upstream, 60-80% in Delta, 20-40% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year spring-run Chinook distribution: 5-20% upstream, 50-75% in Delta, 20-30% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year hatchery winter-run Chinook distribution: 5-15% upstream, 50% in Delta, 30-50% exited Delta
- Overall entrainment risk for young-of-year winter-run and young-of-year spring-run in Interior Delta: LOW to MEDIUM
- Overall entrainment risk for young-of-year winter-run and young-of-year spring-run in CVP/SWP Export Facilities:
LOW to 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 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 group’s discussions primarily focused on the entrainment risk to larval and juvenile 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 and juvenile 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 low risk of entrainment,
- -3500 to -5000 cfs has a medium 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 Working Group will continue to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions, and will meet again on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 10 am.

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

The risk of entrainment in the south Delta is low due to strongly positive QWEST and extremely limited detections of larvae in south and central Delta stations. A decreasing

likelihood of additional larvae hatching in the lower San Joaquin continues and larvae numbers are likely to be low. There is no current information indicating significant spawning activity in central and south Delta.

The Barker Slough maximum export limit remains in effect.

SWRCB:

Division of Water Rights – Nothing to report

Delta Watermaster's Office – Nothing to report

REGULATORY AGENCY FINDINGS –

NMFS – No determination needed.

USFWS – Current determination remains in effect.

DFW – Nothing additional to report.

WOMT Decisions - None