

## WOMT Notes

March 22, 2016 Meeting

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

#### CVP

- *Keswick Releases to upper Sacramento River @ 20,000 cfs, will be decreasing to 5,000 cfs on March 28*
- *Nimbus Releases to lower American River @ 8,000 cfs*
- *Goodwin Release to Stanislaus River @ 200 cfs*
- *Jones Pumping Plant @ 3400 cfs*
- *Delta Cross-Channel Gates: Closed*
- *Federal Share of San Luis @ 394 TAF*

#### SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 800 cfs*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 3000 cfs*
- *State Share of San Luis @ 639 TAF*

#### Delta

- *Freeport Flow @. 62,370 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow @ 2296 cfs*
- *Delta Outflow approx. 60,000 cfs*

- *E/I Ratio 7 % (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 3/19/2016):
  - 5004 cfs (5 day avg.)
  - 4986 cfs (14 day avg.)
- USGS (as of 3/19/2016):
  - 5080 cfs (5 day avg.)
  - 4846 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 2 at Sac trawl and 8 at Chipps trawl
- Also uptick of unclipped 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). Some fish may be from Coleman Hatchery release of FRCS production on March 14.
- WR- acoustic tagging – 48% of the 570 acoustic-tagged fish passed receivers at Tower Bridge – 3 new fish since March 18 moved downstream from Colusa to Tower Bridge; None yet observed at Middle River.
- Salvage of wild FR and SR Chinook, as well as wild steelhead, has increased over past week;
- A few hatchery WR and SR were collected in salvage counts past week; SR are from SJRRP SR release on March 18.

- Salvage of hatchery steelhead still fairly high over past week; fish are likely from Nimbus hatchery releases into the American River in February.
- Coleman National Hatchery will release 1,373,815 FRCS into Battle Creek on March 22.
- Spring-run sized fish may show uptick in catch from unmarked FR that grew into spring-run size range.
- SJRRP released approx. 105,000 SRCS into SJR at Hills Ferry on March 18. 45,000 were from SJR hatchery, remaining 60,000 are from the Feather River.
- Estimate of young-of-year winter-run Chinook distribution: Less than 1% upstream, 50-70% in Delta, 30-50% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year spring-run Chinook distribution: 5-10% upstream, 55-60% in Delta, 30-40% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year hatchery winter-run Chinook distribution: Less than 5% upstream, 45-65% 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 has increased given current hydrology. 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-medium risk of entrainment,
- -3500 to -5000 cfs has a medium-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 Working Group will continue

to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions, and will meet again on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 10 am..

**Longfin Smelt** – .No advice; a couple of LF larvae detected in the south Delta and at Barker Slough; however QWEST remains strongly positive; most of LF hatching appears done for the SJR, larval survey is finished for this year.

**SWRCB:**

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

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

**REGULATORY AGENCY FINDINGS** –

**NMFS** – No determination needed; reiterated (1) need for CVP/SWP to request an extension of the OMR index demonstration project, and (2) request that Reclamation finalize the letter regarding implementation of the rapid genetic testing

**USFWS** – Current determination remains in effect.

**DFW** – Nothing additional to report.

**WOMT Decisions** - None