

## WOMT Notes

March 29, 2016 Meeting

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

#### CVP

- *Keswick Releases to upper Sacramento River @ 5,000 cfs*
- *Nimbus Releases to lower American River @ 4,800 cfs*
- *Goodwin Release to Stanislaus River @ 200 cfs*
- *Jones Pumping Plant @ 2,000 cfs*
- *Delta Cross-Channel Gates: Closed*
- *Federal Share of San Luis @ 407 TAF*

#### SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 4,000 cfs*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 1,700 cfs*
- *State Share of San Luis @ 643 TAF*

#### Delta

- *Freeport Flow @. 50,330 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow @ 1,218 cfs*
- *Delta Outflow approx. 48,400 cfs*

- *E/I Ratio 5 % (14 day average)*
- *Factor Constraining Operations :OMR no more negative than -2500 cfs per USFWS determination*

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

- INDEX (as of 3/26/2016):
  - 3963 cfs (5 day avg.)
  - 4619 cfs (14 day avg.)
- USGS (as of 3/26/2016):
  - 3664 cfs (5 day avg.)
  - 4487 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
- RPA IV.2.1: San Joaquin River I/E ratio: Starts April 1
- Seeing continued ad-clipped Chinook (likely hatchery FR or SR) in river and Delta monitoring, including 18 at Tisdale, 13 at Knights Landing, 2 in beach seines and 1 in Sac. trawl
- Also uptick of unclipped Chinook catch as well; primarily in fall-run sized fish. Some fish may be from Coleman Hatchery release of FRCS production on March 14 and 22.
- WR- acoustic tagging – 49% of the 570 acoustic-tagged fish passed receivers at Tower Bridge – 1 new fish moved downstream from Verona to Tower Bridge; None yet observed at Middle River.
- Salvage of wild FR, SR and WR Chinook has slightly increased over past week.
- Wild steelhead were captured, but trend is declining
- Many clipped SR Chinook from SJRRP releases have been salvaged at export facilities, mainly CVP

- Salvage of hatchery steelhead still fairly high over past week, but trend is declining
- Estimate of young-of-year winter-run Chinook distribution: Less than 1% upstream, 35-55% in Delta, 45-65% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year spring-run Chinook distribution: Less than 5% upstream, 40-50% in Delta, 45-55% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year hatchery winter-run Chinook distribution: Less than 5% upstream, 30-50% in Delta, 45-65% exited Delta
- Overall entrainment risk for young-of-year winter-run and young-of-year spring-run in Interior Delta: LOW
- Overall entrainment risk for young-of-year winter-run and young-of-year spring-run in CVP/SWP Export Facilities:
  - LOW 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. As members have previously noted, 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 to medium 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 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, April 4, 2016 at 10 am.

**Longfin Smelt** – No advice; risk of entrainment is low due to positive QWEST and very limited detections of larvae in central and south Delta; beginning April 1, NMFS RPA IV.2.1 (I/E) will further limit project exports; BS limit expires after March 31; water temperatures are warming signaling end of spawning 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.

**USFWS** – Current determination (issued March 25: OMR no more negative than -2500 cfs on a 14 day average) remains in effect.

**DFW** – Nothing additional to report.

**WOMT Decisions** - None