

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

06/01/10 Conference call 9:00 am

Objective: Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project to salmonids and green sturgeon. DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/actions.htm>

Attendees:

Mike Ford, Carol Stroble, Andy Chu (DWR); Craig Anderson, Nick Hindman, Roger Guinee, Pat Brandes (FWS); Bruce Oppenheim, Barbara Byrne (NMFS); Josh Israel, Thuy Washburn (USBR); Kari Kyler, Greg Wilson (SWRCB)

Agenda: fish monitoring, Delta water operations

Fish Monitoring:

***Because of the three-day weekend; many of the fish-monitoring reports usually considered by DOSS were not available for the phone call.**

Mill and Deer Creek:

Data not available for call.

Knights Landing (5/21-5/28):

3 un-clipped fall-run Chinook salmon were observed in the Knights Landing rotary screw traps on sample date 5/24; 1 unclipped fall-run was observed on sample date 5/28. Both counts represent approximately 8 trap-days of sampling. No listed species were observed.

FWS Sampling Data::

Beach Seines (including Liberty Island): Data not available for call.

Sacramento Midwater Trawls: Data not available for call.

Chippis Island Midwater Trawls: Data not available for call.

Mosssdale Kodiak Trawls (5/24-5/30): Over 5 days of sampling (9-10 trawls/day), 40 Chinook salmon were caught for a YTD sum of 289 in 2010 (compared to a YTD total of 635 as of 5/30 in 2009). Three steelhead have been caught at Mosssdale in 2010; the most recent on 5/14.

CVP and SWP Fish Salvage Facilities (5/24-5/30):

The weekly salvage report from DFG was not available by the time of the call. The group did discuss preliminary daily salvage data from DWR for unclipped steelhead and young-of-the-year Chinook salmon (not identified to race), which showed the following weekly totals:

SPECIES: CVP+SWP=Combined weekly total

STEELHEAD (unclipped) salvage: 20 + 0 = 20 (compared to 20 for the week of 5/17-5/23)

CHINOOK SALMON (young-of-the-year) loss: 626 + 1005 = 1631 (compared to 872 for the week of 5/17-5/23)

Daily loss densities for Chinook salmon: No loss of older juveniles occurred this week.

Sturgeon update:

12 tagged green sturgeon have been observed in the vicinity of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. Some of the tagged sturgeon were tagged at the confluence of Antelope Creek in May; some were tagged by Dave Vogel and others in 2005 and 2006. The green sturgeon team will be meeting later this week.

Smelt Working Group (SWG):

The SWG meeting was concurrent with the DOSS call, so there was no SWG update. It was noted that the current FWS determination (from last Friday, 5/28) called for the projects to operate such that OMR flows are no more negative than -5000 cfs. It was also noted that this OMR flow is the same as the OMR flow that would be required under Action IV.2.3 of the NMFS Opinion until June 15, were that calendar-based component of Action IV.2.3 not enjoined by recent court order.

Operations:

SWP

Approximate releases and flows:

Oroville = 1000 cfs

Vernalis = 4068 cfs

The inflow to Clifton Court Forebay is approximately 3500 cfs.

CVP

Approximate releases:

Keswick = 15,000 cfs; flows were lower than this for a time so that Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District could remove some flashboards from their diversion structure to allow for higher release capacity if needed from Shasta Reservoir.

Nimbus =5000 cfs

The Delta Cross Channel (DCC) was opened during the holiday weekend, and was closed this morning. The DCC will be open again this weekend.

Recent daily OMR flows:

5/31: -3815 cfs

5/30: -4683 cfs

5/29: -3490 cfs

The Jones pumping plant is running three units for an export rate of approximately 2800 cfs.

The current combined export rate is approximately 6,300 cfs.

Six-year Acoustic Tag Study: Reclamation is working on the draft study plan and expects to have a draft to share sometime this summer.

VAMP extension: There has been some discussion regarding a possible extension of VAMP for 2011. It was noted that the original NEPA documentation for VAMP was good for only 10 years. Because that 10-year period ends in 2010, any further VAMP extension would require new NEPA documentation.

Genetic studies related to identification of Chinook runs:

It was suggested that evaluation of salvage and monitoring data would benefit from knowing more about the results of studies that looked at how race identification by “length-at-date” criteria compared to identification by genetic markers. Pat Brandes (FWS) and Michael Banks (Oregon State University, OSU) are working up some data from fish collected through monitoring programs (spring-run results from this work will be reported at the CALFED Science Conference this fall), and Sheila Greene (DWR) and Michael Banks (OSU) have conducted some studies on fish collected at the salvage facilities.

Upcoming Operations:

Per the FWS determination, the projects are currently operating (and will continue to operate) to maintain a daily OMR no more negative than -5000 cfs. Maintaining that level of OMR flow is expected to correspond to exports in the 6000-7000 cfs range.

It was noted that D-1641 allows the export of 35% of Delta inflow through June. Given the current Delta inflow of approximately 23,000-24,000 cfs; D-1641 would allow current exports to approach 8000 cfs.

It is expected that X2 will need to be at or west of Chipps Island for 10-20 days in June.

B2 resources: The recent use of b2 water is still under assessment. 800,000 acre-feet of b2 water is available in the 2009-2010 water year, and the preliminary estimate of b2 costs from October 2009 through January 2010 was 260,000 acre-feet. It is expected that all 800,000 acre-feet will be used this year.

DOSS advice for NMFS and WOMT:

Because the implementation of parts of Actions IV.2.1 and IV.2.3 in the NMFS Opinion are enjoined per the court order, DOSS is providing no advice to NMFS or WOMT today.

Announcements: WOMT meeting at 1pm today.

Next meeting: June 8 at 9:00 am.