

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

Conference call: 10/25/11 at 9:00 a.m.

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 on salmonids and green sturgeon.

DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>

DWR: Andy Chu, Jim Gleim, Angela Llaban, Edmund Yu, Dan Yamanaka

FWS: Leigh Bartoo

NMFS: Barb Byrne, Barbara Rocco, Jeff Stuart

Reclamation: Randi Field

DFG: Bob Fujimura, Joe Johnson

EPA, SWRCB: not present

Action item: Check on green sturgeon ID protocols for this year. There being no resolution yet, the group agreed to keep this item on the action list and revisit it as information becomes available.

Agenda

1. Fish Monitoring
2. Current operations
3. Check in on Chipps Island modified sampling
4. Annual review presentation run through

Fish Monitoring: The following table presents the fish monitoring data reported through 10/24/11. For additional info:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>

Location	Chipps Is. Midwater Trawl	Sacramento Kodiak Trawl	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl	Beach Seines	Knights Landing RST	Tisdale Weir RST
Sample Date	10/17, 10/19	10/19, 10/20	10/17, 10/19, 10/21	10/17–10/21	10/21, 10/24	10/19, 10/21, 10/24
Total Catch	33	0	0	28	1	1
FR	2					
LFR						
WR				3		1
SR					1	
Ad-Clipped Chinook						
DS	29					
LFS						
SPTL	2			25		

SH (ad-clip)						
SH (wild)						
W. Temp. (avg. °F)	64.9	62.8	61.2	64.8	63.5	59.4
Flows (avg. cfs)					6485	6687
Turbidity (avg. NTU)					7.3	6.68
FR/SR Avg. CPUE					0.08	
WR/LFR Avg. CPUE						0.06

Key: FR = Fall run; LFR = Late-fall run; SR = Spring run; WR = Winter run; SH = Steelhead; DS = Delta smelt; LFS = Longfin smelt; SPTL = Splittail, CPUE = catch per unit of effort, ACT = acoustical tag

Tisdale: The first fish caught since monitoring began on 10/3 was one winter-run Chinook salmon (37 mm) caught during the 10/22/11-10/24/11 trapping period.

Red Bluff: A fair number of older juvenile Chinook have been observed passing Red Bluff, but that number is beginning to drop off now.

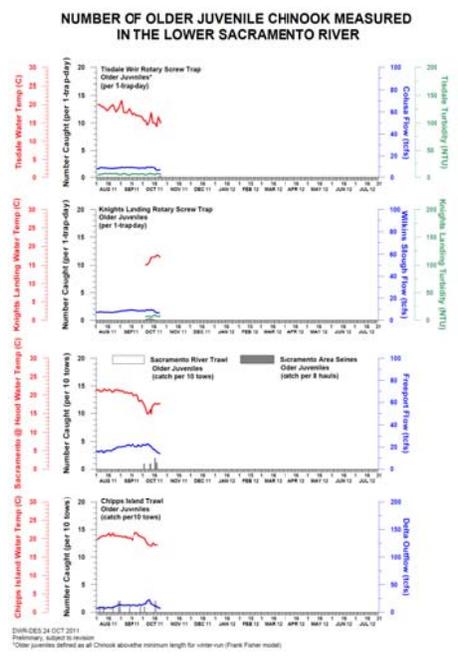
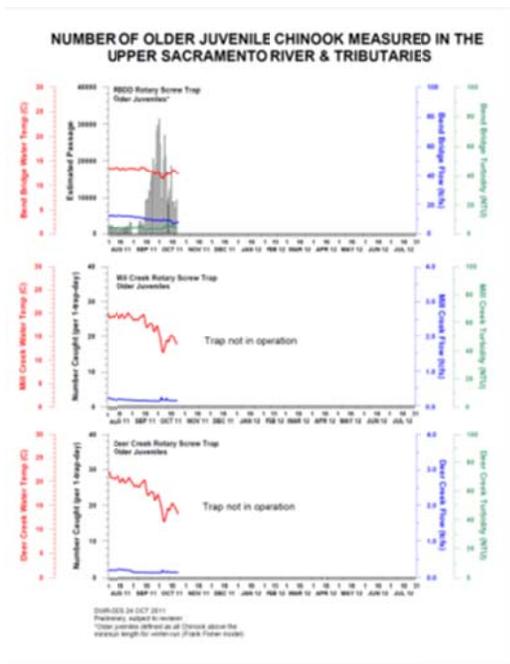
Mill and Deer Creeks: No sampling is occurring at either location.

Knights Landing: From 10/18/11 through 10/24/11, 1 spring-run-size Chinook salmon (34 mm) was caught. The size is close to the break point in the length-at-date model that would distinguish winter-from spring-run Chinook for this time of year. The Knights Landing Catch Index represents one of the triggers under Action IV.1.2; the recent sampling did not trigger DCC closure because catch did not exceed 3 fish per day.

Beach seines: Three winter-run-size Chinook salmon (one at the American River location and two at the Miller Park site; sizes were from >30 mm to in the low 40-mm range) and 25 splittail were caught from 10/17 through 10/21/11.

Chipps Island: The two fall-run Chinook sampled at Chipps Island were 126 and 128 mm; most likely yearlings from the 2010 brood year.

The following graphs show the number of older juvenile Chinook as measured in the upper and lower Sacramento River and tributaries through October 24, 2011.



Salvage

White sturgeon: 12 white sturgeon were salvaged on October 20, 2011, at the CVP facility (one fish handled by the facility; expanded to 12 fish), for a CVP season salvage total of 32. Operators are instructed to hold any sturgeon until the identity is confirmed. DFG reported that all of the white sturgeon salvaged to date are confirmed as white sturgeon.

Green sturgeon: The question was raised as to whether there is a way to genetically differentiate white from green sturgeon for small individuals difficult to distinguish by appearance/meristics. NMFS (Oppenheim) is working with the federal facility to develop a protocol. The genetic work has been focused primarily at the federal facilities. The state facilities are likely to adopt what the federal facilities adopt in terms of tissue sampling. It may be that funding needs to be provided for genetic testing; the possible need for additional permitting was also raised as an issue for review. We will leave this item on the agenda to check back and report on any new information.

Action item: ESA take coverage of fin clips on green sturgeon. Keep green sturgeon protocol information on the agenda to check on each week.

Operations (10/24/11)

SWP		CVP	
Exports (cfs)			
Clifton Court Forebay	6,680	Jones Pumping Plant	4,200
Reservoir releases (cfs)			
Feather - Oroville	2,300	American - Nimbus	3,500 will go down to 3,000 by Thursday
		Sacramento - Keswick	7,000
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	1,900 (an

			additional 600 to 800 cfs are being evacuated from Goodwin reservoir and rerouted to the lower Stanislaus via the North Main Canal)
Reservoir Storage (TAF)			
San Luis (SWP)	954	San Luis (CVP)	729
Oroville	2,918	Shasta	3,246
		Folsom	607
		New Melones	
Delta Operations			
DCC	Open as of 10/14	Sacramento River at Freeport (cfs)	13,605
Outflow Index (cfs)	7,000	San Joaquin River (cfs)	4,565 (will go below 4,000 in the coming week)
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	19,850	OMR (daily)	
Water Temperature (°F)		OMR 5 day	
X2 (km)	76 (progressive daily mean is still below 72.6)	OMR 14 day	
E/I	46.5% on 14-d avg.		

The state share of San Luis reservoir is expected to fill in November. No major storm events are predicted over the next 10 days.

Chipps Island Modified Sampling

A subgroup of DOSS (including representatives from CDFG, FWS, NMFS, and DWR) met by conference call last week (Thursday, 10/20/11) to discuss possible Chipps Island sampling modifications and potential effects on monitoring information on salmonids. A summary of the subgroup discussion is attached to these notes.

The DOSS subgroup submitted its advice to FWS (Brandes) for consideration by FWS and IEP. FWS submitted a proposed modification to the Chipps sampling schedule to the IEP management team last Friday. That proposal (to reduce sampling to one day per week, with some daily take limits) was accepted by the IEP management team and is under review by the IEP coordinators. FWS will begin the new sampling protocol this week unless they hear otherwise from IEP.

Annual Review

DOSS is trying to be responsive to the review panel's suggestion last year by spending less time in the presentation on a review of operations, and more time on a review of monitoring data that

might show responses of fish to changes in flows, temperatures, or various operational adjustments. DOSS will have less presentation time this year than last year. Oppenheim and Washburn will give the draft (practice) presentation on Friday, October 28. Everyone is welcome to attend. Byrne will send out the information on the time and place to the group.

Using WebEx, Byrne presented the draft DOSS presentation and asked for suggestions on revisions, clarifications, problem areas, etc., from the DOSS group. There were several suggestions about how to streamline some of the graphs to make them less “busy” and more understandable, which will be incorporated into the presentation prior to Friday’s dry run.

DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS: None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m.