

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 02/06/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Elissa Buttermore, Randi Field, Chase Ehlo, Erika Kegel, Cat Pien, Kristi Arend, Nick Bertrand, Grace Easterbrook
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Erica Meyers
- DWR: Mike Ford, Nicole Kwan, Kat Osborn, Kevin Reece, Farida Islam
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Sarah Piramoon (Valley Water), Tom Boardman (WWD)

Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Keswick Dam is releasing 15,000 cfs into the Sacramento River for flood management; no anticipated changes, but the range indicates flexibility for flows as necessary.
- Nimbus Dam is releasing 1,750 cfs into the American River; releases will be increasing on Thursday (2/8/2024) to 2,500 cfs for flood management.
- Goodwin Dam is releasing 1,500 cfs for flood management. A lower range of releases is projected but no change orders have been issued yet.
- Freeport daily average flow yesterday was 57,400 cfs.
- Vernalis daily average flow yesterday was 6,000 cfs.
- Delta Outflow Index remains high around 66,000 cfs.
- There were some significant recent tidal anomalies, moving X2 around.
- Jones Pumping Plant exports are currently at 3,500 cfs with a change order on Thursday (2/8/2024) to 4,200 cfs.
- The IEWPP action concluded on Monday (2/5/2024); the OMRI over the 14-day average was in compliance at -1,979 cfs.
- Effective Wednesday (2/7/2024), SWP and CVP are coordinating exports to avoid exceeding the 7-day averaged -3,500 cfs OMRI requirement per the 2023 IOP/ITP COA 8.5.2.
- Oroville releases are decreasing from 9,000 cfs on Monday (2/5/2024) to 7,000 cfs Tuesday (2/6/2024), and 4,000 cfs Wednesday (2/7/2024).

- Clifton Court exports are up to 4,700 cfs and will be reduced to 3,700 cfs on Wednesday to meet OMRI requirements
- The turbidity bridge has not been formed in the South Delta. Turbidity Tuesday (2/6/2024) was about 6 FNU.
- Refer to the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- **Questions:** Please explain the range in Vernalis projections over the next week (4,000 to 8,500 cfs in the Operations Outlook).
 - **Answer:** The range suggests slightly higher flows; we are expecting a range from 6,000 cfs at Vernalis today to 7,600 cfs in another four days, as the peak, and decreasing after that. This is contingent on the forecast.

Review PA Assessment (USBR)

Reclamation then provided the PA Assessment update. For more information, please refer to the PA Assessment document.

Additional Questions or Comments

- **Question:** Were the salvaged DS tagged?
 - **Answer:** Yes, both salvaged DS were experimental release fish and were marked.

Review ITP Risk Assessment (DWR)

DWR provided the LFS update. For more information, please refer to the ITP Risk Assessment document.

Additional Questions or Comments

- No additional questions or comments.

Acronyms

- CVP – Central Valley Project
- DCC – Delta Cross Channel
- DOI – Delta Outflow Index
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- DCI – Delta Mendota Canal – California Aqueduct Intertie
- DS – Delta Smelt
- FNU – Formazin Nephelometric Unit
- I:E – Inflow to Export
- IOP – Interim Operations Plan
- ITP – Incidental Take Permit
- JPE – Juvenile Production Estimate
- LFS – Longfin Smelt
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

- OBI – Old River Bacon Island Station
- OMR – Old and Middle River Tidally Averaged Flow
- PA – Proposed Action (Federal)
- PTM – Particle Tracking Model
- SaMT – Salmon Monitoring Team
- SLS – Smelt Larval Survey
- SMT – Smelt Monitoring Team
- SWP – State Water Project
- SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
- TFCF – Tracy Fish Collection Facility
- TUCP – Temporary Urgency Change Petition
- TUCO – Temporary Urgency Change Order
- USBR – United States Bureau of Reclamation
- WCS – Winter Run Chinook Salmon
- WOMT – Water Operations Management Team
- WQ – Water Quality
- YOY – Young of Year