

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 02/13/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Elissa Buttermore, Erika Kegel, Cat Pien, Kristi Arend, Nick Bertrand, Grace Easterbrook, Liz Kiteck
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Kat Osborn, Kevin Reece, Farida Islam, Brian Schreier
- SWRCB: Matt Holland
- Water Contractors: Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Darcy Austin (SWC), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Tom Boardman (WWD), Jose Rangel (WWD)

Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Inflows are being monitored across all reservoirs due to the coming precipitation this weekend; adjustments will be made as necessary.
- Nimbus Dam is currently releasing 3,500 cfs into the American River; releases will increase on Wednesday (2/14/2024) to 6,000 cfs for flood management.
- SWP and CVP continue to coordinate exports to avoid exceeding the 7-day averaged - 3,500 cfs OMRI requirement per the 2023 IOP/ITP COA 8.5.2.
- Oroville releases at 3,000 cfs will remain for a few days, likely increasing Friday (2/16/2024) due to forecasted storms.
- Clifton Court exports are at 2,600 cfs and will remain in the 2,500 cfs to 3,000 cfs range for the week depending on Vernalis flows in compliance with OMRI requirements
- Refer to the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- No additional questions or comments.

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:** Is there a way to conduct a risk assessment after 14 days at -3,500 cfs OMRI for the 50% loss threshold for Steelhead? Is there a way to off-ramp?
 - **Answer:** There is no specific timeframe for the risk evaluation, but DWR and USBR are required to determine when the level of risk has changed. A risk assessment is planned to be conducted.
- **Question:** When was the turbidity/Secchi depth data collected?
 - **Answer:** Daily turbidity is based on the OBI sensor on CDEC and the larval and juvenile DS survey data was collected last week. We will receive the next set of data for the 12 South Delta stations on Tuesday next week.
 - **Answer:** CDFW did collect Secchi depth data yesterday (2/12/2024) as a special action; the average was under 1 meter, at about 73 centimeters. Although the report-out is based on data from last week, this data collection yesterday confirms it.

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