



Delta Monitoring Workgroup Weekly Meeting

Meeting Record 11/26/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Thuy Washburn, Alexander Vaisvil, Lillian McCormick, Grace Easterbrook, Cat Pien, Chase Ehlo
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Farida Islam, Nicole Kwan, Katie Osborn, Brian Schreier
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Tom Boardman (WWD), Steve Micko (MWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Scott Petersen (SLDMWA)
- Kearns & West: Brittani Bohlke, Marlys Jeane

Review Operations Outlook

- At Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River, releases are at 4,000 cfs.
- At Goodwin Dam on the Stanislaus River, releases are at 200 cfs.
- At Nimbus Dam on the American River, releases are at 2,000 cfs and will stay there for the rest of the month.
- At Oroville Dam on the Feather River, releases are at the minimum of 1,750 cfs and holding.
- JPP is exporting 4,000 cfs Tuesday (11/26) and will likely decrease to 1,600 cfs starting December 2nd for the first flush; Reclamation will assess the conditions on December 1st to confirm.
- DCC Gates closed Monday, 11/18 and will likely remain closed for the season.
- SWP exports at Clifton Court are at 6,680 cfs Tuesday (11/26) which is the maximum allowable amount this time of year. Exports were slightly lower Monday (11/25) due to cross tide complications, but exports will continue at 6,680 cfs until the beginning of December when it is anticipated that first flush will be triggered.

- Inflows at Freeport are at 47,000 cfs Tuesday (11/26) and will likely peak around 57,000 cfs Wednesday (11/27). Inflows are expected to remain in the 50,000 cfs range then drop off in about five days depending on runoff from the recent storms and any potential precipitation. So far, the weather next week is forecasted to be clear and cold.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: Will both CVP and SWP exports be at these low levels if the first flush is triggered for two weeks?
 - Answer: Yes, exports would be operating to the OMR constraint of -2,000 cfs or less for 14 consecutive days.

Review PA Assessment (USBR)

Reclamation provided a brief update on the current monitoring conditions. For more information, please refer to the PA Assessment document.

Additional Questions or Comments

No additional questions or comments.

Review ITP Risk Assessment (DWR)

Facilitator's note: Due to a new ITP, no Risk Assessment document was presented. DWR provided a verbal update.

- SMT met Tuesday (11/26) and discussed LFS risk; there are no active actions right now until December 1st when adult LFS entrainment prevention action becomes active.
- Regarding distribution, the November Bay Study caught 42 LFS, two from stations in the Lower Sacramento River (Stations 750 and 751); one of those was an adult, the other was a sub-adult.
- The December Fall Midwater Trawl and SLS will be starting on December 2nd and will provide up-to-date information. The December Bay Study will start the following week.
- In the new 2024 ITP, the Bay Study data is used to calculate the Fall Spawner Index (Age 1+LFS Index) used in the LFS adult entrainment protection action. CDFW is currently producing the August-November number which can hopefully be shared next week; December will be added once the data is available.
- Last week, EDSM caught 50 LFS and 16 LFS were caught in the Chipps Island survey. So, there is some evidence of LFS adults and sub-adults moving up in the system to spawn as we'd expect for this time of year. Temperatures are conducive to spawning and risk is determined to be low; distribution and risk will continue to be monitored.

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
- ITL – Incidental Take Limit
- 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
- SRDWSC – Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel
- 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