



Delta Monitoring Workgroup Weekly Meeting

Meeting Record 12/03/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Thuy Washburn, Alexander Vaisvil, Lillian McCormick, Grace Easterbrook, Cat Pien, Chase Ehlo, Erika Kegel
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Farida Islam, Katie Osborn, Brian Schreier
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Darcy Austin (SWC), Tom Boardman (WWD), Steve Micko (MWD), Cindy Meyer (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 the minimum of 2,000 cfs and holding.
- At Oroville Dam on the Feather River, releases are at the minimum of 1,750 cfs and holding.
- Federal storage at San Luis Reservoir is 420,500 acre-feet.
- DCC Gates were closed on 11/18 and will remain closed through December.
- JPP is exporting 1,500 cfs Tuesday (12/03) and will increase to 4,200 cfs Wednesday (12/04).
- CCF is exporting 6,680 cfs Tuesday (12/03), which is the maximum allowable amount this time of year and DWR expects to hold there for the rest of the week.

- Flows at Freeport are about 29,000 cfs to 30,000 cfs Tuesday (12/03) and decreasing a small amount each day since no storms are in the forecast. Flows are expected to be about 20,000 cfs by the end of the week, and outflows will remain around 10,000 cfs.
- This week, the weather is forecasted to be cold and dry.
- Tides are transitioning from Spring to Neap; the first quarter moon will be on December 8th.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: After determining that first flush wasn't triggered, is power scheduling the primary reason for a delayed return to five units?
 - Answer: Yes, three days are needed to schedule out operations. This was initiated on Monday (12/02), therefore the first opportunity to see the change is Wednesday (12/03).
- Question: Since the first flush wasn't triggered, is the -5,000 cfs OMR not the ceiling until a certain date?
 - Answer: First flush was not triggered, and we are currently in excess conditions, so pumping is maxed out right now until Freeport flows drop or another trigger happens.
 - Answer: The -5,000 cfs OMR requirement is triggered at the end of the 14 consecutive days of operating at -2,000 cfs in December. However, there's a hard trigger of -5,000 cfs regardless of whether first flush happened or not by January 1. So, there is no OMR target in December unless first flush is triggered; after that the first OMR target is January.
 - Answer (in chat): According to the new ITP, OMR management for turbidity bridge avoidance can be triggered on or after December 20, as well.

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.

- As of December 1st, condition 8.3.3 is being active for adult LFS. The salvage threshold for this condition is an equation in the new ITP based on a Bay Study Fall Spawner Index.

CDFW has provided a preliminary Fall Spawner Index (Age 1+LFS) from August to October, which is 812. November and December data will be included once available. The Index is additive, so the number will only increase from here.

- Through December, the salvage threshold to trigger LFS entrainment protections is 42 which is fairly high; salvage of adult LFS is rare. Young-of-year LFS protections are not active until after January 1.
- Sub-adults and adults are being observed in the Chipps Island survey. Similarly, some were observed in the Lower Sacramento River a couple weeks ago. Most LFS continue to be downstream of the X2 location (currently at 72 km).
- The first LFS larval survey of the season started Monday (12/02), and the 12 South and Central Delta Stations were sampled and processed. Two larval LFS were detected in the Lower San Joaquin River, and one was detected in the Northern Old River corridor, which indicates spawning has started.
- The SMT decided that there is currently low risk for sub-adult and adult LFS and high risk for the LFS larvae in the South and Central Delta given the high negative OMR this week.

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