

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 2/23/2021

Working Group Members & Observers

Attendees	Organization
Nick Bertrand	USBR
Josh Israel	USBR
Ian Smith	USBR
Rafael Lopez Gonzalez	USBR
Elissa Buttermore	USBR
Suzanne Manugian	USBR
Randi Field	USBR
Liz Kiteck	USBR
Katherine Sun	USFWS
Jeff Stuart	NMFS
Kristal Davis-Fadtke	CDFW
Ken Kundargi	CDFW
April Hennessy	CDFW
Felipe La Luz	CDFW
Farida Islam	DWR
Kevin Reece	DWR
Mike Ford	DWR
Jeff Onsted	DWR
Matt Holland	State Board
Deanna Sereno (CCWD)	Water Contractor
Yuan Liu (CCWD)	Water Contractor
Heidi Williams (Valley Water)	Water Contractor
Shawn Acuña (MWD)	Water Contractor
Sheila Greene (WWD)	Water Contractor
Shelby Rinehart (WWD)	Water Contractor
Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC)	Water Contractor
Darcy Austin (SWC)	Water Contractor
Ian Buck-Macleod (Friant Water Authority)	Water Contractor
Jeni Buckman (American River Settlement Contractors)	Water Contractor

Absentees	
Mario Manzo	USBR
Jana Affonso	USFWS
Brett Harvey	DWR
Frances Brewster (Valley Water)	Water Contractor
Alison Collins (MWD)	Water Contractor
Corey Phillips (MWD)	Water Contractor
Scott Peterson (SLDMWA)	Water Contractor
Lenny Grimaldo (DWR)	Observer

Action Items

1. DWR to request PTM boundary conditions be included in the PTM information by the PTM modeler to help with communicating PTM runs.
2. Should WOMT make changes to recommendations, communicate this information back to DMW via email.

Additional Notes on Discussion Items

- Introduction
- Review Fish and Water Operation Outlook
 - Dry period continuing.
 - Stable releases at Whiskeytown, Keswick, Folsom, and Oroville.
 - February instability flow on Stanislaus this week.
 - OMR controlled operations last week, and now Delta exports decreasing through the week in response to lower inflows. Aiming to maintain February water quality standard of 7,100 cfs.
 - DCC gates closed and anticipated to remain closed. Construction should wrap up in early March.
 - TFCF debris loading was an issue over the weekend, but doesn't seem to be impacting facility operations.
 - COA balancing by going back and forth on pumping at CVP and SWP through the week.
 - Question regarding current COA balance.
 - Response that COA accounting is fairly even between projects right now.
- Review PA Assessment and ITP Assessment from Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) and Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT)
 - Reviewed executive summary from PA assessment.
 - SaMT
 - No non-consensus issues at SaMT.
 - Significant number of juvenile salmonid in the Delta this week.
 - Natural steelhead being salvaged. Also, salvage of spring run surrogate release of LFCS
 - SaMT expects increases in salvage of juvenile salmonids over next week, but don't expect exceedance of PA loss thresholds.
 - SMT
 - No new abundance estimates.
 - Both facilities are now completing larval sampling

- More negative limited of the OMR index increase potential entrainment of Delta Smelt in the Central Delta into the South Delta.
 - No non-consensus issues at SMT.
 - ITP Assessment – for DS, consistent with PA assessment. For LFS:Criteria stations for Barker Slough 8.1.2 no LFS caught. This is no longer in effect.
 - Higher OMR values increases entrainment of larvae, but SMT noted downstream shift in distribution, no recommendations regarding weekly range of operations.
 - 8.4.2 trigger exceeded. Larval LFS in Central Delta has high risk of entrainment at OMR more negative than -2500.
 - PTM run reviewed and -3500 run likely underestimated effects of operations.
 - Water temperature in range of LFS spawning and hatching
 - SMT determined no more negative than -2500 will reduce entrainment into the South Delta.
- Provide information in DMW notes for consideration by DWR and Reclamation.
 - Question about why is there a pattern of LFS larvae showing up with alternate weeks?
 - Response that it seems hatching is ongoing and showing up in the area, likely to be continuous spawning.
 - Question about who make the final decision to follow the recommendation from the monitoring teams?
 - Response that the implementing agencies take input from monitoring teams seriously and WOMT aims to resolve these issues. Advice goes to WOMT, if there is not consensus there, then the CDFW director can require permittee to follow advice.
 - Request that the boundary conditions for the PTM runs be included with the runs (in the PDF) rather than in the email exchange?
 - *See action items.*
 - Circle back to previous question regarding how LFS recommendations pertain to operations.

Response that ultimately LFS recommendations are unlikely to be the primary controlling factor this week because of delta outflow requirements.