

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Recorded 06/15/2021

Working Group Members & Observers

Attendees:

- Nick Bertrand, USBR
- Josh Israel, USBR
- Ian Smith, USBR
- Suzanne Manugian, USBR
- Rafael Lopez Gonzales, USBR
- Elissa Buttermore, USBR
- Randi Field, USBR
- Kathering Sun, USFWS
- Jeff Stuart, NMFS
- Ken Kundargi, CDFW
- April Hennessy, CDFW
- Felipe La Luz, CDFW
- Mike Ford, DWR
- Jeff Onsted, DWT
- Deanna Sereno, Water Contractors
- Darcy Austin (SWC), Water Contractors
- Jennifer Buckman (ARSC), Water Contractors

Absentees:

- Mario Manzo, USBR
- Liz Kiteck, USBR
- Jana Affonso, USFWS
- Kristal Davis-Fadtke, CDFW
- Brett Harvey, DWR
- Farida Islan, DRW
- Kevin Reece, DWR
- Matt Holland, State Board
- Yuan Liu (CCWD), Water Contractors
- Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Water Contractors
- Sheila Greene, Water Contractors
- Ian Buck-Macleod (Friant Water Authority), Water Contractors
- Shelby Rinehart (WWD), Water Contractors
- Frances Brewster, Water Contractors
- Alison Collins, Water Contractors
- Corey Phillips (MWD), Water Contractors
- Scott Peterson (SLDMWA), Water Contractors
- Shawn Acuna, Water Contractors
- Lenny Grimaldo (DWR), Observers

Action Items

- None

Additional Notes on Discussion Items

- Introduction
- Review Fish and Water Operation Outlook
 - Warming conditions, expecting triple digit temperatures to the weekend.
 - Clear Creek – releasing 125 cfs downstream from Whiskeytown; expect an emergency pulse flow for fish movement. Releases will top out between 500 – 600 cfs.
 - Sacramento River – releasing 7500 cfs downstream from Keswick. Change order for tomorrow (Wednesday) to go to 8,000 cfs to meet Delta outflow requirements.
 - American River –releasing 1,850 cfs downstream from Nimbus.
 - San Joaquin River –releasing 1,500 cfs.
 - Delta conditions saw some improvement with higher upstream releases. Freeport is at 6,200 cfs; Vernalis at 1,300 cfs, which is a little shy of releases made upstream from Goodwin on the Stanislaus. Those actions were taken to support the relaxed Delta requirements under the TUCP for Delta outflow and salinity.
 - Oroville—currently releasing 2,550 cfs, increasing to 2750 cfs tomorrow and holding. Anticipating depletions will increase with forecasted extreme heat later this week. 14-day outflow average is on the increase right now. We are complying with all outflow and WQ measures through the TUCP.
 - Later this week, the one-unit export operation will shift from Clifton Court to Jones. After Friday, Clifton Court Delta exports will only be about 125 cfs for the remainder of June, to support BBID diversions and Clifton Court water surface elevation for the weed spraying at end of month.
 - Opening the DCC gates tomorrow (Wednesday), after salinity had been increasing slightly. We will be watching for any indication that we may need to modify that operation. It is expected to weaken downstream flows, so even though it will not affect delta outflow, increases have been made with an eye to that as well as depletions.
 - Question – When is the Banks outage?
 - Response – We will reduce to 300 cfs on Thursday and Friday, and then to 125 cfs by Saturday and holding. Herbicide application is toward the end of the month, the 28th and 29th. They will close the radial gates on the 28th, draw down the water, spray on the 29th, hold for 24 hours and then reopen and pump water out on the 30th.

- Question – How long will the single unit exports operate and why the transition?
- Response – There are some efficiencies to be gained by operating at Jones. The plan is to go through the end of June and into early July. We will reassess and manage from there.

There may be some power considerations as well. These operations have been communicated to the State Board.

- Review PA Assessment and ITP Assessment from Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) and Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT)
 - Reviewed executive summary from PA assessment.
 - SaMT
 - No issues for WOMT.
 - SaMT has off ramped from OMR management, so no assessment this week. SaMT has wrapped up the season since the offramp for temperatures at Mossdale has been met.
 - Salmonids largely exited the delta.
 - SMT
 - No issues for WOMT.
 - No non consensus issues.
 - No abundance estimates this week.
 - No DS salvage this water year.
 - OMR criteria may control until June 30 or until the following off ramp – daily mean at Clifton Court Forebay reaches 77 degrees F for 3 consecutive days. We have not currently reached 77 degrees. The current temperature is 72.7 degrees F. We expect it might increase with heat wave and will be monitoring closely.
 - Sampling:
 - 20 mm #6 in field today, June 1-4. Currently processing 8 of 12 stations. No DS.
 - 2 mm #7 in field 14-18 of June.
 - Bay Study ongoing. No DS. + Boat issue this week.
 - EDSM – Currently having boat issues. No DS. On water 14-17 this week. Sampled 10 of 40 sites last week, no DS.
 - Chipps Island Trawl – Ongoing. 3 days per week, no DS.
 - Mossdale trawl – CDFW sampling 3 days per week, no DS. Started May 10.
 - Summer Towntnet – Survey 1 being processed, no DS so far. June 21-25 for next Towntnet.
 - ITP Assessment
 - No advice to WOMT for LFS or DS.
 - Condition 8.12 for Barker Slough not triggered by recent sampling. No

advice under the ITP.

- For LFS – SMT thinks we are at the end of the entertainment season for LFS. No LFS detected at 8.4.2 stations. None detected or salvaged since May 31. Increasing water temps decrease likelihood of smelt in Delta.
- Survey updates:
 - 8 Smelt reported in 20mm survey #6 in Suisun Bay.
 - 20 mm survey #7 began this week after one day delay.
 - No other LFS detections.
 - Catch table attached.
- Provide information in DMW notes for consideration by DWR and Reclamation.
 - None

Acronyms

DCC – Delta Cross Channel

DWR – California Department of Water Resources

DS – Delta Smelt

FNU -- Formazin Nephelometric Unit

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

PTM – Particle Tracking Model

SaMT – Salmon Monitoring Team

SLS – Smelt Larval Survey

SMT – Smelt Monitoring Team

SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board

TFCF – Tracy Fish Collection Facility

TUCP – Temporary Urgency Change Petition

WCS – Winter Run Chinook Salmon

WQ – Water Quality

YOY – Young of Year