

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 11/30/2021

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Nick Bertrand, Ian Smith, Suzanne Manugian, Randi Field, Elissa Buttermore, Brian Mahardja
- USFWS: *Not in attendance.*
- NMFS: *Not in attendance.*
- CDFW: Ken Kundargi, Felipe La Luz, Crystal Rigby, April Hennessey
- DWR: Mike Ford, Farida Islam, Kevin Reece
- SWRCB: *Not in attendance.*
- Water Contractors: Yuan Liu (CCWD); Darcy Austin, Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC); Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Tom Boardman, Jose Rangel, David Vang (WWD), Shawn Acuña (MWD), Jerry Robbins (SLDMA)

Action Items

From 11/9/21 - Should more information about the WR JPE release date become available, share back with the group.

Additional Notes on Discussion Items

For detailed information on the outlook or assessment document overviews presented during the meeting, please refer to those documents.

Review Operations Outlook (Randi Field, USBR and Mike Ford, DWR)

- Two items of note outside of the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook document:
 - TUCP anticipated to be submitted to the State Board tomorrow by Reclamation. An overview of the TUCP and the drought outlook is anticipated at the next State Board meeting on December 7.
 - Initial SWP water supply allocation will be made by the Director of DWR tomorrow.
- Q: What are the conditions of the TUCP?
- R: It covers four primary areas: X2 outflow, Vernalis flow requirements, DCC flexibility, and export limits. *[Speaker provided disclaimer about their interpretation being subject to correction once the TUCP is submitted]*

- Q: What is the timeframe for the TUCP?
- R: We don't have this information at this time.

Review PA Assessment (Suzanne Manugian and Ian Smith, USBR)

No discussion.

Review ITP Risk Assessment (Felipe La Luz, CDFW)

- Additional note that December 1 marks the beginning of first flush OMR management protection measures. On both federal and state sides this applies between December 1 and January 31, however, the state and federal regulation differs on a few points:
 - State regulation permits the SMT to trigger first flush OMR management protection if real time monitoring indicates a high risk of DS dispersal into areas of the south or central Delta.
 - The State regulation also lacks an offramp for the detection of a ripe female.
 - The State COA can only be triggered once.
- Additional detail from SMT discussion:
 - The Fall Midwater Trawl memo was released, noting collection of 6 LFS in the Deepwater Ship Channel. At the time of the SMT this morning, the fork length data was not available. Subsequently CDFW contacted Fall Midwater Trawl biologists for additional information. The LFS collected were between 79 and 86 cm in length. While adult LFS are present in the Delta, they are far upstream and at a low risk of entrainment.
 - Q: We've heard about a special sampling with a good number caught, is that being considered by the SMT?
 - R: That is not being considered for the ITP Risk Assessment. That special study occurred in San Pablo Bay and outside of areas we would consider adults to be at risk of entrainment.
 - Q: How many fish were caught?
 - R: The final data has not been QA/QC'd, but it may be near 40.
 - Q: Did the additional data received after the SMT meeting change your recommendation for adult entrainment protection?
 - R: No, the information that came later was only about the size of the fish. It was the wrong time of year for them to be larvae, so we had initially assumed that they were older juveniles or adults. This assumption was confirmed based on data received from the FMWT biologist later that day.

Acronyms

- DCC – Delta Cross Channel
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- DS – Delta Smelt
- FNU -- Formalin 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