

# Delta Monitoring Workgroup

## Meeting Record 12/21/2021

### Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Nick Bertrand, Ian Smith, Suzanne Manugian, Liz Kiteck for Randi Field, Elissa Buttermore
- USFWS: Leif Goude
- NMFS: *Not in attendance*
- CDFW: Ken Kundargi, Felipe La Luz, Crystal Rigby, April Hennessey
- DWR: Mike Ford
- SWRCB: Matt Holland
- Water Contractors: Deanne Sereno, Yuan Liu (CCWD); Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC); Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Tom Boardman, Jose Range, 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. (Addressed)

- 12/14 update - USBR shared that the JPE project team has been meeting and expects the letter to be ready early next year.

### 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 (Liz Kiteck, USBR and Mike Ford, DWR)

No discussion.

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

- Q: Table 1 in the summary (*page 8 of the ITP Risk Assessment for Delta Smelt and Longfin Smelt, Summary*) only shows eight fish, was the ninth not recorded?
- R: The table shows December 13 through 30, so the one fish caught today in the Deepwater Ship Channel is not included on this table. It was reported during the SMT call. EDSM provides the table directly to CDFW and it is copied into the ITP Risk Assessment Summary. (Clarification of earlier response)

## Review ITP Risk Assessment (Felipe La Luz, CDFW)

- Q: For the 2 fish retained and sent to the Fish Conservation and Culture Laboratory, UC Davis (FCCL) for genetics – are they just swabbed and let go?
- R: If they are wild, they'll go into the brood stock. If they are determined to be hatchery fish, it is possible that things will proceed as they usually would, but we are not certain of the process at this point.
- Q: In Section 1-B (*page 2 of the ITP Risk Assessment for Delta Smelt and Longfin Smelt, Summary*), why does the risk differ from low for LFS to medium for DS?
- R: The SMT changed this from low to medium because first flush conditions assume that DS will begin moving. The caveat is low turbidity in the region.
  - Q: We are not expecting them to be in the vicinity – so why medium?
  - R: It is difficult to forecast turbidity, particularly with the uncertainty of the coming week with highly variable conditions. SMT thought DS would be at higher risk if they took this route through the central Delta.
- Q: On Condition of Approval 8.5.1, can you confirm that the difference between the ITP and BiOP still exists with the spent female offramp?
- R: [Following the meeting, via email from CDFW to facilitator to DMW]:
  - After reviewing Condition of Approval 8.5.1 in the ITP, I can confirm that the spent female offramp is not included. This Condition of Approval begins after an Integrated Early Winter Pulse Protection action or February 1<sup>st</sup>, whichever comes first, and ends on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The relevant language appears on page 85 of the ITP (<https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/State-Water-Project/Files/ITP-for-Long-Term-SWP-Operations.pdf>) and is included in the Basis for Advice section of the SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary for 21 Dec 2021.

## 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