

# Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 05/17/2022

## Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Suzanne Manugian, Liz Kiteck, Mike Beakes, Nick Bertrand, Kristin Arend, Ian Smith
- USFWS: Leif Goude
- NMFS: *Not in attendance*
- CDFW: April Hennessey, Gabe Singer
- DWR: Farida Islam, Bryant Giorgi
- SWRCB: Matt Holland
- Water Contractors: Chandra Chilmakuri, Darcy Austin (SWC); David Vang (WWD), Shawn Acuña (MWD); Yuan Liu (CCWD); Heidi William (Valley Water); Jennifer Buckman (ARSC)

## 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 Bryant Giorgi, DWR)

- Sacramento River – releases downstream from Keswick Dam are 3,500 cfs. A lower pressure release gate was opened on 5/17/2022 in response to warming temperatures.
- Stanislaus River – releases are 500 cfs from Goodwin Dam and changes will be made as needed to meet the Vernalis D-1641 flow requirements.
- San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are currently at 712 cfs with no anticipated changes.
- Flows at Freeport were at 8,100 cfs on 5/16/2022 and should remain within the 6,000 cfs to 8,000 cfs range.
- Delta exports at Jones Pumping Plant are at 900 cfs.
- Combined Delta outflow on 5/16/2022 was 4,800 cfs and should remain stable.
- Clifton Court Forebay exports are currently 600 cfs. Banks Pumping Plant will be offline from 5/15/2022 to 5/20/2022 for maintenance. Fish salvage at Skinner Fish Facility will not occur. In preparation, there was a decrease in Clifton Court Forebay and will be slowly refilled throughout the week with a possible max of 600 cfs on Friday.
- QWEST was at +100 cfs on 5/16/2022 and could fluctuate between -500 cfs and +500 cfs throughout the week.

- The tidal cycle is a strong spring tide and water quality will continue to be observed throughout the week.

### Questions/Comments

Q: When will the Delta Cross Channel gates will open?

R: Typically, the Delta Cross Channel gates first open over Memorial Day weekend. They will likely be opened on 5/27/2022 and then closed on 5/31/2022.

Q: How are depletions? Are they going up?

R: Wilkins and Verona have been relatively stable since last weeks changes. Depletions since last week have been flat, which is unusual for this time of year, normally things are more negative.

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

- On 4/16/2022 one fish was identified as a Chinook salmon but was later properly identified as a steelhead. The PA Assessment was not updated to reflect this last week but has since been updated.
- It is unlikely that any additional salvage will be seen for natural winter run and hatchery winter run Chinook.
- The expected OMR index values are -1,100 cfs to -1,500 cfs.
- The daily mean water temperature at Clifton Court Forebay on 5/16/2022 was 69 °F.
- Turbidity daily average at OBI was 2.49 FNU on 5/16/2022.
- The three-station daily water temperature on 5/16/2022 was 19.8 °C. This is above the range for DS spawning; however, the three-station average is likely higher than the Delta on average. SMT believes spawning is still occurring.
- X2 is estimated to be 82 km.
- Since last week, 6 juvenile DS were collected in the Lower Sacramento River in the Deep-Water Ship Channel.
- No larval DS were collected this week.

### Questions/Comments

C: The same identification issues occurred when fall run Chinook were misidentified as winter run Chinook.

R: Attachment C of the PA Assessment includes all the confirmed genetic results through 4/25/2022. The majority of the fish that were originally identified as winter run Chinook were identified improperly. The majority were fall run Chinook and a minority were late fall run Chinook.

C: The Table should have a footnote that identifies this information.

C: This was discussed at last weeks DMW meeting. The loss estimate in the PA last week did not include the updated numbers..

R: Yes, Reclamation knew that it had occurred, but the salvage data base had not been updated yet. The PA did not reflect the change, the report out was just a heads up. The numbers are now updated.

### **Review ITP Risk Assessment (Brian Schreier, DWR)**

- The LEPS larval entrainment study will cease sampling at the end of the week due to elevated temperatures and a decrease of larval detections at salvage.
- Salvage numbers for LFS are still high compared to previous years but are beginning to decline. Over the last week, approximately 491 juvenile LFS were salvaged between both the Skinner and Tracy Fish Facilities, bringing the annual total to 7,218 salvaged fish.

### Questions/Comments:

C: There is concern that with the Clifton Court Forebay being filled and not pumped out quickly, that there will be an increase in pre-screen loss that will not be accounted for because when exports and salvage resume on Friday, those losses won't be accounted for in salvage because it is likely that many of the larval and juvenile will already have been eaten by predators. There is a note in the PA on this issue.

Q: Is there an estimate of the index of how many juveniles are in the Delta?

R: No, there is not currently an abundance estimate or abundance index. SLS does not produce an index the way other surveys do. 20 mm does produce abundance index when the season is over for key species and would be the first calculated metric for the overall spawning and production for the year. It is important to remember the data will only be based on the range of where 20 mm sampled, not downstream. In a dry year like this, there it is likely there will be an overlap between the 20mm survey and the LFS spawning.

### **Additional Questions or Comments**

- *No additional discussion.*

### **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