

# Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 05/31/2022

## Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Mike Beakes, Nick Bertrand, Ian Smith, Randi Field, Erika Kegel, Brian Mahardja
- USFWS: *Not in attendance*
- NMFS: *Not in attendance*
- CDFW: April Hennessey, Gabe Singer
- DWR: Farida Islam, Mike Ford, Brian Schreier
- SWRCB: Matt Holland
- Water Contractors: Chandra Chilmakuri, Darcy Austin (SWC); Shawn Acuña (MWD); Yuan Liu (CCWD); Heidi William (Valley Water); Jennifer Buckman (ARSC); Tom Boardman, Jose Rangel (WWD)

## 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)

- Conditions are currently dry, with warming occurring mid-week. Precipitation is possible in the Northern Sierra with trace amounts reaching the valley floor.
- Sacramento and American Rivers – a range of releases is shown in response to warming temperatures.
- Stanislaus River – releases are 700 cfs from Goodwin Dam to meet the Vernalis D-1641 flow requirements.
- Flows at Freeport are currently at approximately 8,000 cfs and should remain within the 6,000 to 8,000 cfs range.
- San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are currently at 750 cfs.
- Delta salinity is of concern as a result of the DCC gate being open over the Memorial Day weekend.
- Tidal cycle moving into a mild neap throughout the week.
- The cross-channel gates will close on 5/31. It is unlikely the cross-channel gates will reopen during June based on the current conditions to maintain salinity requirements.
- Feather River flows out of Oroville Dam are currently at 2,700 cfs. The increase over the last week is in response to salinity increases in the Delta when the DCC gates were open.
- Combined Delta outflow on 5/16/2022 was 4,800 cfs and should remain stable.

- Clifton Court Forebay exports are currently 300 cfs.

### Questions/Comments

Q: Does the TUCO limit maximum exports to 1,500 cfs?

R: DWR, Reclamation, and SWRCB have been working together because the TUCO did not include the Byron-Bethany Irrigation District diversions out of Clifton Court as part of the State Water Project's health and safety minimums. While this issue is being worked out, DWR wanted to note that flows would be higher than 600 cfs in order to meet Delta requirements and account for the Byron-Bethany diversions.

### **Review PA Assessment (Nick Bertrand and Ian Smith, USBR)**

- Loss of natural steelhead increased to 154.38 over the last week.
- The expected OMR index values are -1,500 cfs to -1,900 cfs.
- Turbidity daily average at OBI was 3.48 FNU on 5/30/2022.
- The three-station daily water temperature on 5/30/2022 was 20.3 °C. This is above the range for DS spawning; however, the three-station average is likely higher than the Delta on average.
- X2 is estimated to be 93.6 km.
- Since last week, 4 juvenile DS were collected in the Lower Sacramento River in the Deep-Water Ship Channel.
- No larval or juvenile DS were salvaged this week.
- SMT believes spawning is still occurring but slowing down. Larval sampling will continue through 6/6/2022 and will continue if there are larval DS collected in the quantitative sampling this week.

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

- 20 mm surveys 4 and 5 are being processed. 20 mm survey 6 is on the water this week and new distribution data should be available for the south and central Delta stations and Barker Slough.
- Sampling will end next week unless further larval detections occur this week.
- Salvage numbers for LFS are still high compared to previous years but are beginning to decline. Over the last week, approximately 64 juvenile LFS were salvaged at the State Facility, bringing the annual total to 7,448 salvaged fish.

### **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