

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 01/03/2023

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Nick Bertrand, Kristin Arend, Randi Field, Brian Mahardja, Elissa Buttermore
- USFWS: Leif Goude
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Crystal Rigby, April Hennessey, Erica Meyers
- DWR: Mike Ford, Brian Schreier
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Deanna Sereno (CCWD), Yuan Liu (CCWD), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Darcy Austin (SWC), Jennifer Buckman (ARSC), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Jose Rangel (WWD), Tom Boardman (WWD)

Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Currently in a wet weather pattern; experiencing rain early this week and expecting stronger amounts of rain later this week and into the weekend. Expected precipitation will be particularly high in the northern parts of the State and will subsequently result in a high probability of local flooding and strong wind this week into next week.
- Releasing minimum baseflows of 200 cfs downstream of Whiskeytown Dam on Clear Creek.
- Releasing minimum baseflow of 3,250 cfs downstream of Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River.
- Releasing 25,000 cfs downstream from Nimbus Dam on the American River for flood management; encroachment at Folsom Dam is expected to end today.
- In the San Joaquin system, Goodwin Dam is down to 400 cfs, had previously been releasing up to 3,000 cfs, adjusting for side flows into Tulloch.
- As storm events pass through, releases may increase depending on side flows at Keswick Dam, Nimbus Dam, and Goodwin Dam.
- In the Delta, anticipating Freeport flows between 40,000 to 90,000 cfs.
- Flows at Vernalis are between 7,000 to 10,000 cfs with projections likely peaking today and tomorrow 01/04/2023 before dropping back down; projections may be variable as there are more anticipated storm events.

- JPP is exporting 3,500 cfs; there may be room for adjustments, but it is operating under OMR constraints because of the ‘First Flush’; today 01/03/2023 is the first day of implementing OMRI -2,000 cfs requirements, which will remain for the next 14 days.
- DCC Gates are closed and are expected to remain closed for the foreseeable future.
- Oroville releases are at 950 cfs; Clifton Court exports at 3,000 cfs and are expected to be in this range for the next couple of days.
- For the next two weeks, exports should reflect the increase in water in the river systems. Exact export figures are dependent on precipitation level from anticipated atmospheric river events.
- See the Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- **Comment:** The Folsom auxiliary spillway is in use. This is a rare sight, but the second time in the past two months.
- **Question:** What is the auxiliary spillway flowrate?
 - **Answer:** The auxiliary spillway is releasing approximately 4,000 cfs.

Review PA Assessment (USBR)

Reclamation provided the PA Assessment update. For more information, please refer to the PA Assessment document.

Review ITP Risk Assessment (DWR)

DWR provided the LFS update. For more information, please refer to the ITP Risk Assessment document.

Additional Questions or Comments

- **Question:** Can you describe the JPE and whether the status right now reflects the potential holding upstream that we had previously discussed? Any more information there?
 - **Answer:** The IEP (Interagency Ecological Program) work team has just released the draft JPE letter.
- **Question:** Can the JPE letter be sent to the group?
 - **Answer:** There is a winter run JPE Project Work Team (PWT) that’s part of the IEP. The team sends a letter to NMFS that is described on page three of the PA Assessment. Mid-January is when the final JPE letter from NMFS is anticipated. It is typically posted to the NMFS website here:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/endangered-species-conservation/california-central-valley-water-operations-biological>
- **Question:** Can you share the draft letter that the JPE PWT has sent to NMFS?
 - **Answer:** Yes, I will provide to the facilitator to forward to the DMW email list. *(Distributed 01/03/2023)*
- **Question:** Have there been any Delta Smelt observations yet?
 - **Answer:** None since mid-December.

- **Question:** Is there any LFS larval data to indicate if North Bay restrictions will come into effect?
 - **Answer:** By January 15, if it is dry or critically dry, North Bay restrictions would come into play. The last SLS detected one larval Longfin at Station 716, which is a trigger for 8.12, but we will have one more SLS before January 15. With the Yolo Bypass projected to overtop starting Friday, we could see a downstream shift in the distribution out of the north delta, but time will tell.
- **Questions:** The offramp you described, once we reach those flows, does it offramp completely for the rest of the year or does it come back when flows recede?
 - **Answer:** This is a temporary offramp. In Rio Vista, over 55,000 cfs triggers the offramp. You can find the specifics in the ITP.

Acronyms

- DCC – Delta Cross Channel
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- DS – Delta Smelt
- FNU -- Formazin Nephelometric Unit
- GCID – Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
- 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