

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 10/04/2022

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Kristin Arend, Nick Bertrand, Randi Field, Brian Mahardja, Elissa Buttermore
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Crystal Rigby, Erica Meyers
- DWR: Farida Islam, Mike Ford, Nicole Kwan, Philip Choy
- SWRCB: Matt Holland
- Water Contractors: Darcy Austin (SWC); Yuan Liu (CCWD); Tom Boardman (WWD), Jose Rangel (WWD), David Vang (WWD), Michelle Banonis (RWA), Shawn Acuna (Met), Ian Buck-Macleod (Friant WA), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Scott Petersen (SLDMWA), Heidi Williams (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 (Randi Field, USBR and Mike Ford, DWR)

- Sacramento River releases out of Keswick Dam are currently 4,100 cfs; flows will likely drop soon, but not until after this week.
- Releasing 1,500 cfs downstream from Nimbus Dam to the American River; looking for opportunities for storage conservation, but no anticipated flow changes yet.
- Goodwin Dam releases on the Stanislaus River changed today from 150 cfs to 200 for the baseflow.
- San Joaquin River flows will change mid-month.
- Releasing 2,500 cfs from Oroville Complex and exporting 500 cfs at Clifton Court.
- In the Delta, the current export of 1,800 cfs from Jones Pumping Plant will be dropping to a single unit operation to 900 cfs Wednesday 10/5/2022 and the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates will be opened on Friday, 10/7/2022, both actions will help to protect water quality.
- DCC gate closures support the Rio Vista flow regulatory requirement.
- DCC were closed as of this morning 10/4/2022 at 10:00 am; anticipating closing during the week and opening on the weekends but may need to change depending on conditions.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: Regarding the release out of Keswick, is it being driven by the need to protect the redds rather than Delta needs? Do you have a sense of when those flows will drop to the minimum release, for example, once the redds have all emerged?
- Response: Yes, it's accurate that redd dewatering concerns are controlling, though both issues are being considered in the operation. It's reasonable to assume we'll hang onto the release until the current concerns pass.
- Question: To follow up, we may see a release drop out of Keswick starting next week but not this week?
- Response: Yes, that's what we're alluding to with all those potential ranges of releases. You see a drop in the range for both the American River and the Sacramento River.

Review PA Assessment (Nick Bertrand, USBR)

- The PA Assessment is currently focused on the Delta Cross Channel Gate operations as opposed to the OMR Assessment that is done later this season.
- Some rotary screw traps aren't monitoring yet; but salmonids are not present in large numbers at this point in time.
- Juvenile winter run have been observed Red Bluff Diversion Dam monitoring, but the Salmon Monitoring Team estimating zero percent of juvenile winter run are present in the delta
- The Salmon Monitoring Team did not provide estimates for spring run and Central Valley steelhead this week.
- Mokelumne River Pulse Flow Plan is attached at the bottom of the PA Assessment for reference.

Review ITP Risk Assessment

- No ITP discussion this week.

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