

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 11/15/2022

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Nick Bertrand, Randi Field, Brian Mahardja, Kristin Arend, Elissa Buttermore, Erika Kegel, Catarina Pien
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Crystal Rigby, Erica Meyers
- DWR: Mike Ford, Nicole Kwan, Brian Schreier, Farida Islam
- SWRCB: Matt Holland
- Water Contractors: Darcy Austin (SWC), David Vang (WWD), Tom Boardman (WWD), Jose Rangel (WWD), Deanna Sereno (CCWD), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Cindy Meyer (SLDMA), Jennifer Buckman (ARSC), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC),

Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Forecasted weather changes from last week into a dry pattern; dry conditions will continue this week without a chance of significant precipitation; reaching normal temperatures mid-week.
- Release from Clear Creek downstream from Whiskeytown Dam is 200 cfs.
- Release from Keswick Dam into the Sacramento River is 3,600 cfs; this change in operations from last week creates an opportunity for storage conservation; change orders are out to reach minimum flows at 3,250 cfs.
- Release from Nimbus Dam into the American River is 1,300 cfs; this change in operations from last week is to reach minimum flows.
- Release from Goodwin Dam into the Stanislaus River is at a baseflow of 200 cfs with no anticipated changes.
- In the Delta, Vernalis is at 630 cfs.
- Flows at Freeport are fluctuating between 5,500 cfs and 8,000 cfs; anticipating decline in outflows.
- Jones Pumping Plant is exporting 1,800 cfs.
- The Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates continue to be open on weekends and closed on weekdays; this pattern will continue to the end of the month.
- Release from Oroville on the Feather River is 1,800 cfs.
- Clifton Court is exporting 500 cfs.

- Rio Vista flow and outflow requirements are monitored and less concerning, however, water quality is being closely monitored.
- See the Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: In terms of water quality controlling operations, is the issue water quality on the Sacramento River side or is it on the San Joaquin River side?
 - Answer: Generally speaking, it is both. We are struggling to keep Threemile Slough (on the Sacramento River side) fresh. But we are also watching Jersey Island and Bethel Island water quality to keep the West and South Delta sufficiently fresh.

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: Are there observations of fish at Red Bluff? Is there a measure of egg to fry from this summer; are fry rearing upstream of GCID? What is the consensus of the group about what is happening right now with those juvenile fish?
 - Answer: There are low counts of fish at Red Bluff Diversion Dam, and we're not seeing higher numbers in other locations. There are low observations of fish in general. No specific conversations about the driving factors at this point.
 - Answer: We are very curious about the low numbers. Some staff in Redding and Red Bluff did see more winter run holding upstream near Redding. There is some indication that those fish haven't migrated downstream yet; time will tell. This is an unusual year and there are not a lot of observed fish; we're going to see late passage I believe.

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