

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 11/29/2022

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Kristin Arend, Elissa Buttermore, Catarina Pien, Erika Kegel, Ian Smith, Randi Field
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Erica Meyers
- DWR: Mike Ford, Nicole Kwan, Farida Islam
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Darcy Austin (SWC), David Vang (WWD), Tom Boardman (WWD), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Shawn Acuna (MWD), Yuan Liu (CCW), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA)

Actions

- *K&W to follow up with agency staff to better understand how to connect DMW members with those who can answer questions raised today regarding experimental release.*

Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Anticipating widespread precipitation, including the Shasta basin and valley floor. With cold temperatures, snow is expected throughout the Sierra.
- Release from Clear Creek downstream from Whiskeytown Dam is 200 cfs.
- Release from Keswick Dam into the Sacramento River is 3,250 cfs.
- Release from Oroville Dam into the Feather River is 1,400 cfs
- Release from Nimbus Dam into the American River is 1,300 cfs.
- Release from Goodwin Dam into the Stanislaus River is 200 cfs.
- From an upstream stance, all flows are at minimums for storage conservation purposes for the CVP.
- In the Delta, minimal approach to exports; salinity continues to be monitored. Tidal cycle last week has impacted salinity.
- Jones Pumping Plant is exporting 900 cfs and exports are expected to be reduced to 800 cfs tomorrow.
- Clifton Court is exporting 300 cfs.

- The Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates closed as of Monday, November 28th for seasonal operations; if higher salinity conditions persist, DCC Gate operations may need to be adjusted.
- Anticipating some inflow increases due to the changing precipitation, but the incoming storms might not last long; flows are anticipated to reach the Delta by the early part of next week.
- See the Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- No questions or comments.

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: Regarding the mention of Experimental Release, was an announcement already sent out? Do official announcements happen during these meetings and then an announcement goes out afterwards? What is the standard?
 - Answer: No announcement has been made from SMT.
- Question: What are the plans for a release schedule moving forward? Last year, some release windows were provided. Is it different this year?
 - Answer: Not sure how things happened last year, but the assessment includes dates and plans for releases.
 - Comment: There was a lot of information on releases last year, but there is very little information on that this year. Will follow up with DWR regarding schedules.
 - Comment: From the PA Assessment page 12: Cultured Delta Smelt Experimental Releases, it reads, “Experimental releases are planned for the weeks of November 28, January 9, and January 23. A total of approximately 42,000 fish is expected to be released this water year.”
- Question: Fall Midwater Trawl will be on November 30th. What is the index number?
 - Answer: Waiting for an answer on November 30th or December 1st.
- Question: What is the current turbidity at Freeport?
 - Answer: Currently at 1.72 FNU; the index is low right now but will be watched.

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