

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 12/06/2022

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Nick Bertrand, Kristin Arend, Elissa Buttermore, Catarina Pien, Erika Kegel, Randi Field, Brian Mahardja
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Erica Meyers, Crystal Rigby, Taiga Yamaguchi,
- DWR: Mike Ford, Farida Islam
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Darcy Austin (SWC), David Vang (WWD), Jose Rangel (WWD), Tom Boardman (WWD), Shawn Acuna (MWD), Yuan Liu (CCW), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Scott Peterson (SLDMWA),

Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Currently a break in precipitation but anticipating weekend showers into the early part of next week. Favorable precipitation in the northern part of the state, including the Shasta basin and valley floor, anticipating diminishing precipitation into the San Joaquin Valley.
- No anticipated changes for Clear Creek, Sacramento River, American River or Stanislaus River releases.
- In the Delta, starting to see a response from recent precipitation and upstream exports.
- Concerns about widespread salinity, particularly in the southern interior and east Delta around Bacon Island and with a possibility of salinity issues spreading into the southern part of the Delta; salinity issues are a major driver/controlling factor in operations decisions right now.
- Jones Pumping Plant is exporting 800 cfs.
- On the Feather River, releasing 1,400 cfs out of Oroville.
- There is a possibility of lowering releases from Oroville but want to avoid this until salinity at Three-Mile Slough on the Sacramento River side is improving.
- Clifton Court is exporting 300 cfs.
- The Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates closed as of Monday, November 28th and are expected to remain closed unless salinity issues remain unresolved; have considered opening the gates for a limited time to respond to salinity conditions.

- Turbidity is about 5.0 FNU at Freeport; currently there is no danger of “First Flush” conditions triggering Integrated Early Winter Pulse Protection regulations.
- 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 (CDFW)

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

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: In the SMT Report, is this fall midwater trawl index (FMWT) information just for the month of November?
 - Answer: The FMWT that reads 53 is for November, and the FMWT that reads 321 is cumulative for September to November.
- Question: When there was a release of Delta Smelt last year near Decker Island, there were concerns that the location was the cause of entrainment. Is that a concern again this time?
 - Answer: In general, it is a concern, but last year we only saw one fish. The constraints around wanting to pick good habitat for the release are always in the thought process, including the conditions at Decker Island. If we see entrainment again, we would need to consider this in future planning for release locations for this season and next season.
- Comment: Is there another forum we can have in addition to this one for a discussion of experimental release? There is a lot of information to discuss, and this question might be suitable for another forum. The community would appreciate that opportunity.

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