



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Stanislaus Watershed Team

Meeting Summary 3/18/2020

1. Action Items

- Barb:
 - Send Kai the link to the San Joaquin Beach Seine data (from Bay Delta Live) for meeting notes (DONE)
 - Update map of monitoring sites to include San Joaquin sites. Send to Zarela to share the map with group
 - Provide narrative for revised hydrograph (include COVID-19 caveats)
- Reclamation:
 - Identify someone to provide Post Action Element updates at future SWT meetings
 - Share Stepped Release Plan Guidance and Operations document
- J.D.:
 - Revise hydrograph (DONE)
 - Provide snow-pack information (DONE)

2. Introductions

- USBR: Elissa Buttermore, Zarela Guerrero, Levi Johnson, Liz Kiteck, Sarah Perrin, Thuy Washburn
- NMFS: Barbara Byrne, Monica Gutierrez
- USFWS: J.D. Wikert
- CDFW: Ryan Kok, Duane Linander and Jonathon Williams
- SWRCB: Chris Carr, Erin Foresman, Yongxuan Gao
- Kearns & West: Rafael Silberblatt, Kai Walcott

3. Every Fish That Dies Gets Eaten

- J.D. Wikert presented on the factors influencing Salmonid predation in the Stanislaus River and showed how habitat restoration could reduce predation. See attached slide presentation for details.

4. Hydrology and Temperature Updates

- There has been precipitation over the last seven days and a wandering storm is expected (which may or may not hit the watershed).
- Snow water equivalent has increased 6-8 inches over the last seven days.
 - Link to snow pack data: http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir_ss/b120up
- Runoff is at 46% of average, which represents an increase.
- Air temperature has been cooler than anticipated and is expected to remain that way for the rest of the month.
- Daily maximum water temperatures at Orange Blossom Bridge were greater than 57 F on a couple of days in March then cooled with the recent colder air temperature. No adverse impacts to fish are anticipated; hourly water temperatures have generally been below 54 F since mid-February (see details in handouts).

5. Operations Update and Forecasts

- Recent and Upcoming Operations
 - Reservoir Conditions: New Melones is at 1.89 MAF storage. The reservoir is 80,000-acre-feet below encroachment. On March 21, allowable storage will increase.
 - Flow: Current releases from Goodwin Dam are at 200 cfs. At New Melones, current releases are at 200 cfs, and though inflows peaked at 3,800 cfs, they were at 1,600 cfs yesterday. Vernalis flows were at 1,700 cfs, above the required monthly average of 800 cfs.

6. Stanislaus River Forum (SRF) Call Review

- Stanislaus River Forum: was held via conference call on March 17, 2020. Barbara Byrne (NMFS), Zarela Guerrero (USBR), Karna Harrigfeld (Stockton East), Levi Johnson (USBR), Ryan Kok (CDFW), Spencer Marshall (USBR) and Thuy Washburn (USBR) were in attendance. Operations, handouts and fish data were reviewed. No public comments or feedback were received.

7. Fish Monitoring and Studies

- FISHBIO has cancelled their Native Fish Study for the season.
- Rotary Screw Trap monitoring continues at Caswell but has been cancelled at Oakdale for the remainder of the season. The Caswell trap typically sees much lower catches than at Oakdale, and current Caswell catches support this trend. At Oakdale, a lower number of catches were also observed, possibly influenced by higher flows in mid-February which may have reduced trap efficiency.
- Neither steelhead nor Chinook salmon have been observed yet this water year at the Mossdale Trawl. While it is not uncommon to see low numbers of steelhead overall, and especially at this time of year (due to steelhead being more able than Chinook to avoid the

trawl and relatively low migration of steelhead before April), it is unusual for Chinook salmon numbers to be this low.

- Seine data from the San Joaquin region were reviewed during the call to check for the presence of Chinook fry in the shallow habitat in the vicinity of the Mossdale Trawl; since January 1, only a few Chinook have been reported (at the Dos Reis seine location downstream of Mossdale).
 - Bay Delta Live – Delta Juvenile Fish Monitoring (DJFMP) Catch Highlights: <https://www.baydeltalive.com/fish/djfmphighlights> (In the map of sampling locations, on the upper left of the page, you can click on a location to show the site name and other details.)
 - DJFMP metadata: https://www.fws.gov/lodi/juvenile_fish_monitoring_program/jfmp_index.htm (See the top link in monitoring data table. This document has information on sampling locations and frequencies as well as the organism codes.)

8. Restoration Project Updates

- The gravel program continues at Goodwin, just below the dam. Reclamation will submit a draft report on sediment and hydro modeling to the Army Corps of Engineers as a condition of the realty license (i.e., temporary land access permit).
- Post-project monitoring of restoration sites has been cancelled due to a lack of inundation.
- Progress has been made with landowners on the Migratory Corridor Rehabilitation Project, though the site visit to Dos Rios has been postponed due to COVID-19.

9. Progress Toward BiOp Requirements (Proposed Action Elements)

- USFWS indicated that less than 25% of gravel targets were reached under the 2009 BiOp. Gravel targets are lower under the new BiOp (tied to CVPIA targets).
- Reclamation will share the Stepped Release Plan (SRP) guidance document and operations plan and select someone to provide Proposed Action Element updates at future SWT meetings.

10. Flow Planning

- FISHBIO requested flows of 200 cfs in the first weeks of April and May and 400+ cfs in the second and third weeks of April and May. This is no longer necessary since the study has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.
- Alternative 4 should be revised so that peak flows in May are flattened to 400-600 cfs and the excess water moved to the last week of April.
- A narrative piece will accompany proposed Reclamation SRP operation plans moving forward.

11. Other Discussion Items

- COVID-19

- Next month's meeting will be a teleconference. Team engagement should continue via phone and email.
- There may be a reduction in data as a result of COVID-19 mitigation strategies which recommend social distancing. No final decisions have been made, but it is expected that changes in monitoring programs (including reduction and/or cancellation) will be at the discretion of supervisors.

12. Next Meeting

- Wednesday, April 15, 2020 (10 a.m.-12 p.m.)



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Stanislaus Watershed Team

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Conference Line: 1 (773) 231-9226; Meeting ID: 148 869 4090

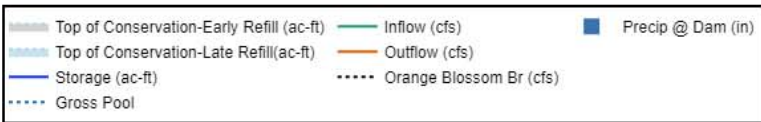
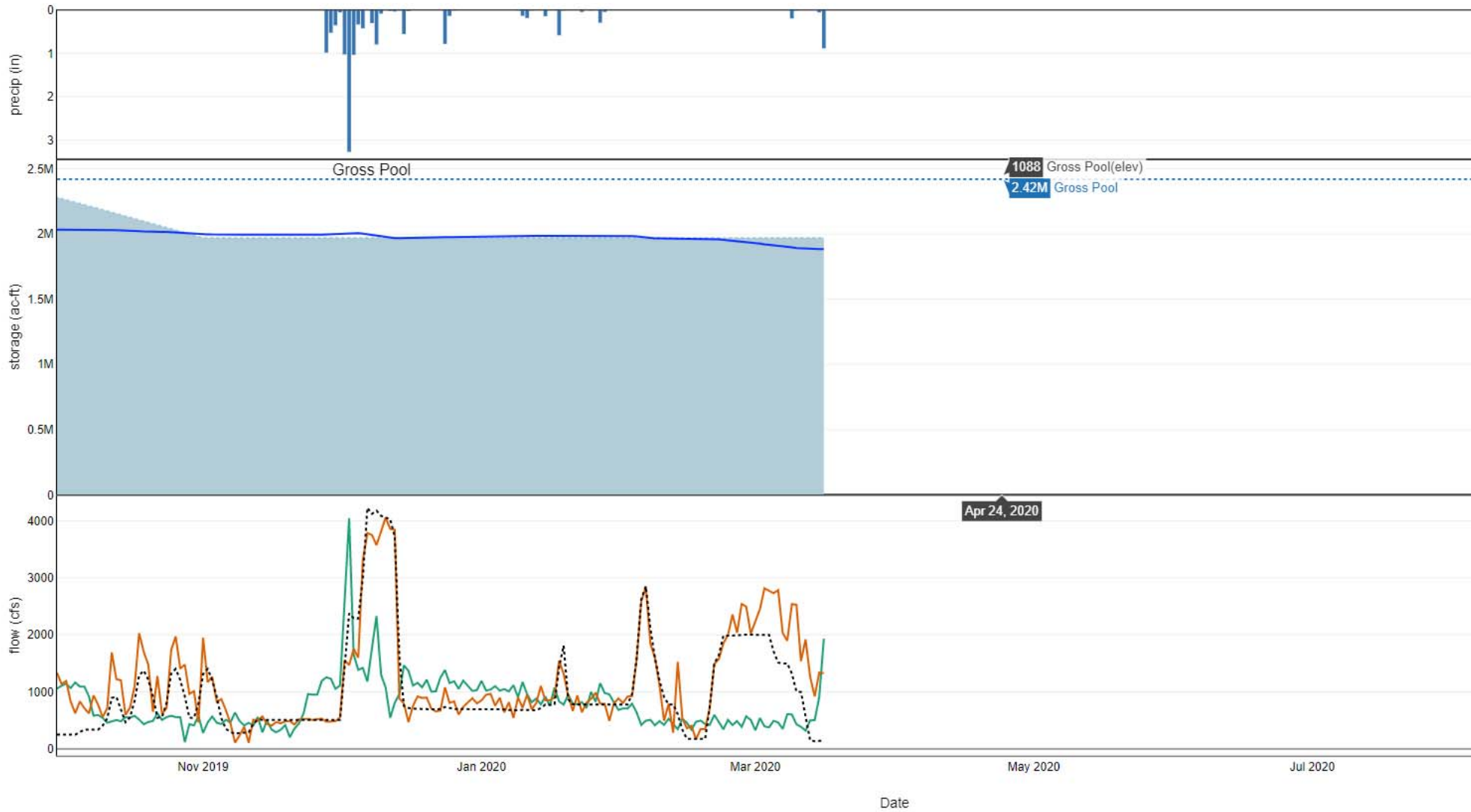
WebEx: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1488694090>

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Announcements
3. Guest Speaker
 - a. J.D. Wikert - “Every Fish That Dies Gets Eaten”
4. Hydrology and Temperature Updates
5. Operations Update and Forecasts
6. Stanislaus River Forum (SRF) Call Review
7. Fish Monitoring and Studies
8. Restoration Project Updates
9. Progress Toward BiOp Requirements (Proposed Action Elements)
10. Flow Planning
11. Other Discussion Items
 - a. COVID-19 discussion
12. Review Action Items
13. Next Meeting
 - a. Wednesday, April 15, 2020 (10am-12pm)

New Melones Dam & Lake - Stanislaus River Basin
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION-CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT-CALIFORNIA

MARCH 2020

NEW MELONES LAKE DAILY OPERATIONS

RUN DATE: March 16, 2020

DAY	ELEV	STORAGE		COMPUTED* INFLOW C.F.S.	RELEASE - C.F.S.			EVAPORATION		PRECIP INCHES
		1000 ACRE-Feet IN LAKE	CHANGE		POWER	SPILL	OUTLET	C.F.S.	INCHES	
		1,929.5								
1	1,045.47	1,925.6	-3.9	540	2,451	0	0	52	.15	.00
2	1,045.02	1,920.8	-4.9	396	2,815	0	0	35	.10	.00
3	1,044.57	1,915.9	-4.9	378	2,779	0	0	45	.13	.00
4	1,044.15	1,911.4	-4.5	493	2,730	0	0	45	.13	.00
5	1,043.71	1,906.7	-4.7	464	2,784	0	0	66	.19	.00
6	1,043.39	1,903.2	-3.4	351	2,028	0	0	56	.16	.00
7	1,043.14	1,900.5	-2.7	610	1,898	0	0	66	.19	.00
8	1,042.78	1,896.7	-3.9	604	2,540	0	0	10	.03	.19
9	1,042.39	1,892.5	-4.2	433	2,528	0	0	10	.03	.01
10	1,042.17	1,890.1	-2.4	387	1,540	0	0	35	.10	.00
11	1,041.87	1,886.9	-3.2	320	1,920	0	0	17	.05	.00
12	1,041.72	1,885.3	-1.6	500	1,266	0	0	41	.12	.00
13	1,041.63	1,884.4	-1.0	505	920	0	0	69	.20	.00
14	1,041.54	1,883.4	-1.0	911	1,340	0	0	55	.16	.05
15	1,041.65	1,884.6	+1.2	1,934	1,328	0	0	14	.04	.88
TOTALS			-45.1	8,826	30,867	0	0	616	1.78	1.13
ACRE-Feet			-45,100	17,506	61,225	0	0	1,222		

COMMENTS:

SUMMARY

	RELEASE (ACRE-Feet)			PRECIPITATION	
POWER	61,225	OUTLET	0	THIS MONTH =	1.13
SPILL	0	TOTAL	61,225	JULY 1, 2019 TO DATE =	13.50
				OCT 1, 2019 TO DATE =	13.26

OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
 SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
 TRI DAMS PROJECT-CALIFORNIA

MARCH 2020

GOODWIN RESERVOIR DAILY OPERATIONS

RUN DATE: March 16, 2020

DAY	ELEV	STORAGE		TULLOCH	RELEASE - C.F.S.			
		ACRE-FEET	CHANGE		RIVER	SPILL	CANALS	
		RES.		RELEASE	OUTLET		JOINT	SOUTH
							MAIN	MAIN
		591						
1	360.77	591	+0	2,718	0	2,001	660	69
2	360.77	591	+0	2,741	0	2,003	659	51
3	360.77	591	+0	2,742	0	2,007	658	51
4	360.57	577	-14	2,360	0	1,588	655	94
5	360.57	577	+0	2,364	0	1,508	703	146
6	360.57	577	+0	2,315	0	1,504	655	146
7	360.57	577	+0	2,402	0	1,502	750	175
8	360.32	559	-18	2,129	0	1,191	817	150
9	360.32	559	+0	1,953	0	1,003	824	147
10	360.32	559	+0	2,037	0	1,000	873	193
11	359.77	521	-38	1,533	0	484	893	193
12	359.80	523	+2	1,334	0	201	907	215
13	359.80	523	+0	1,377	0	201	912	228
14	359.80	523	+0	1,343	0	203	913	172
15	359.80	523	+0	1,189	0	207	843	82
TOTALS			-68	30,537	0	16,603	11,722	2,112
ACRE-FEET			-68	60,570	0	32,932	23,251	4,189

JOINT MAIN OPERATED BY SSJID AND OID.

SUMMARY
 RELEASE (ACRE-FEET)

JOINT MAIN CANAL	23,251	OUTLET	0
SOUTH MAIN CANAL	4,189	SPILL	32,932
		TOTAL	60,372

March 2020 Stanislaus River Update

Flows

The New Melones Stepped Release Plan minimum flow schedule for the Critical year type requires minimum instream base flows of 200 cfs in March. Goodwin releases peaked at 2,000 cfs at the beginning of the month (releases for D-1641 requirements) with a slow ramp down to 200 cfs (Figure 1). Flows are expected to remain at 200 cfs until the end of the month.

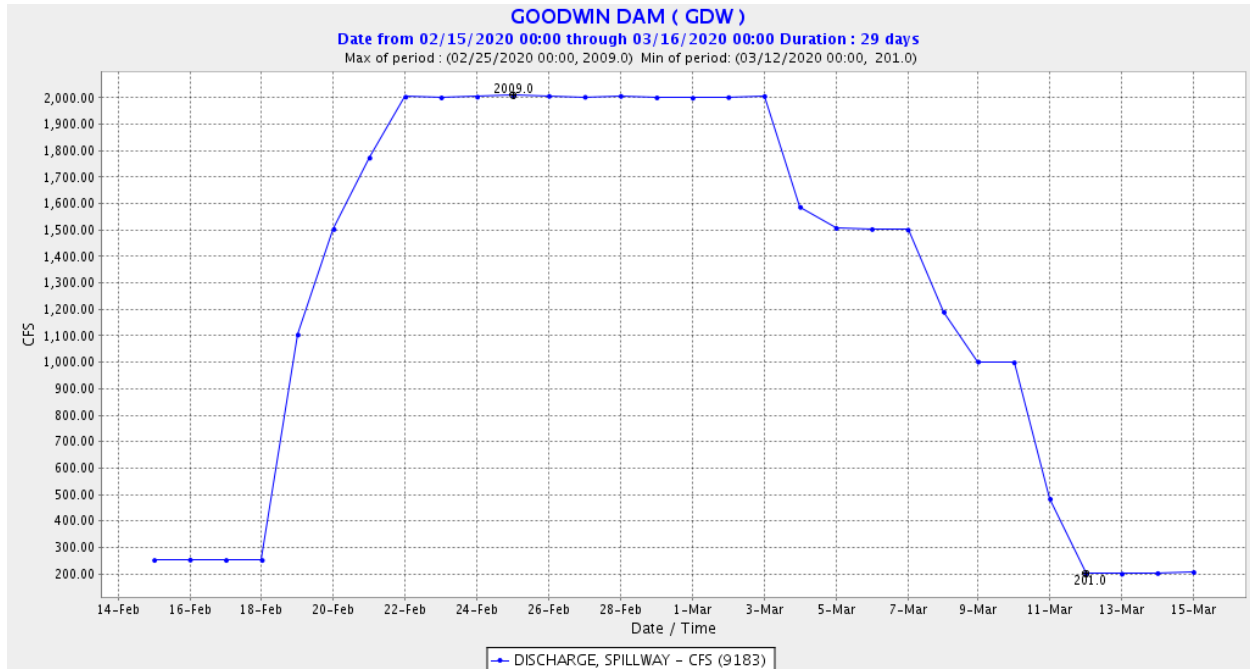


Figure 1. Goodwin (daily) releases to the Stanislaus River since February 25, 2020. Data from GDW station on CDEC.

Temperature

Water temperatures in the Stanislaus River are shown below at locations in Goodwin Canyon (Figure 2) and at Orange Blossom Bridge (Figure 3).

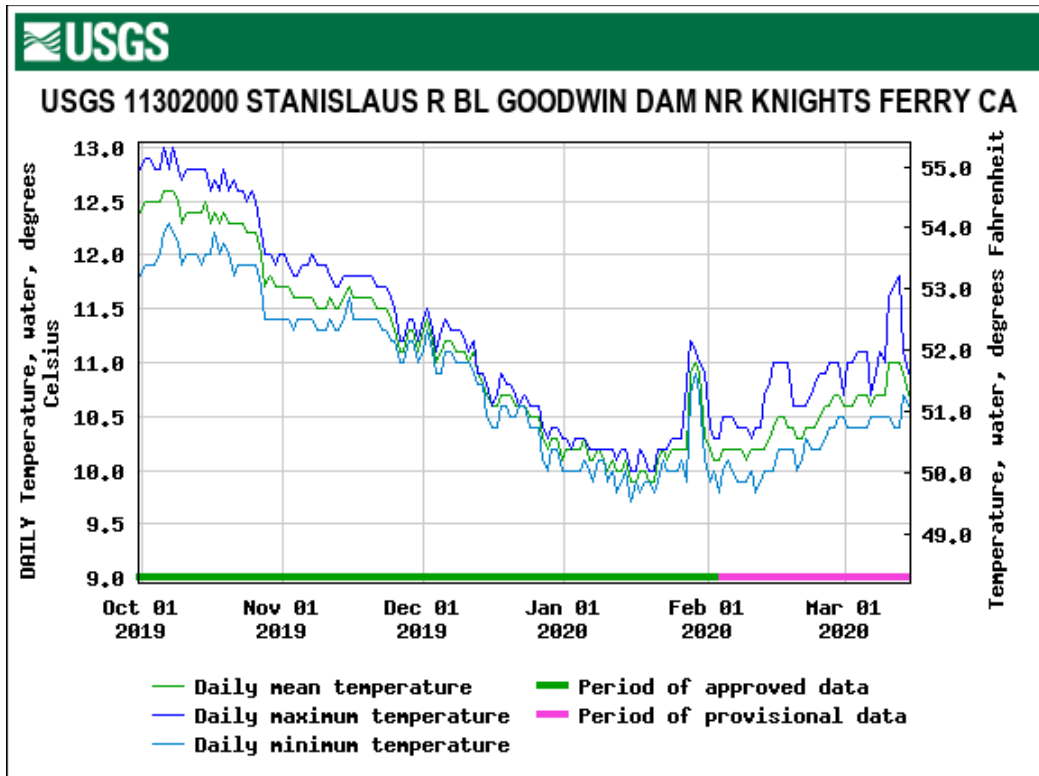


Figure 2. Daily water temperatures on the Stanislaus River upstream of Knights Ferry since October 1, 2019. Data from USGS gage 11302000 on NWIS.

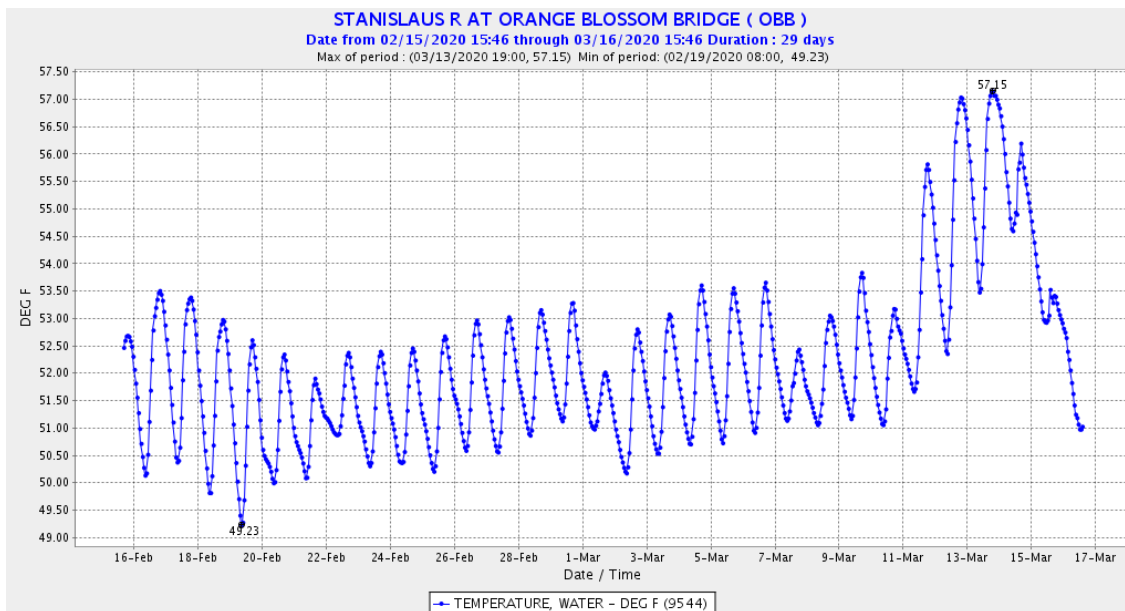


Figure 3. Stanislaus (hourly) water temperatures at Orange Blossom Bridge since February 16, 2020. Data from OBB station on CDEC.

Update on Fish Monitoring

Rotary screw trapping at Oakdale (conducted by FISHBIO) and Caswell [conducted by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)] for the 2019/2020 outmigration season (for monitoring of outmigrating juvenile salmonids) began in late December (at Oakdale) and early January (at Caswell). Chinook catch at each location is summarized in Figure 4 (Oakdale) and Figure 5 (Caswell). Figures provided by FISHBIO in their 3/11/20 San Joaquin Basin Update.

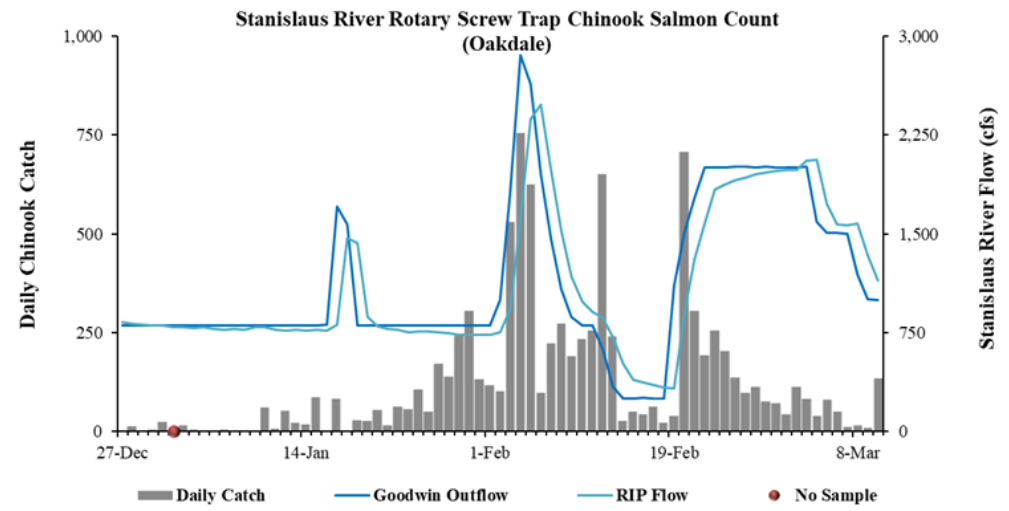


Figure 4. Juvenile Chinook catch through March 10, 2020, at the rotary crew trap near Oakdale. Data courtesy of Fishbio.

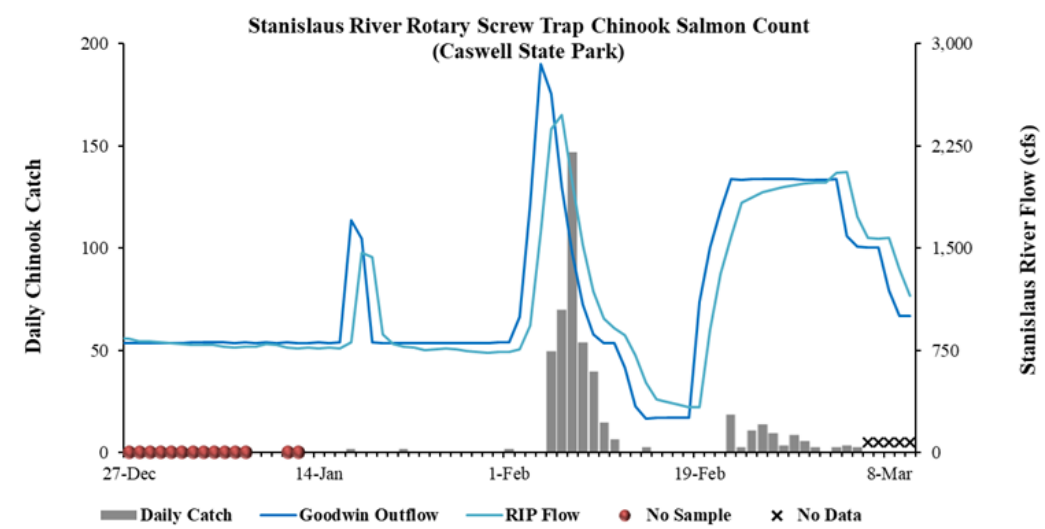


Figure 5. Juvenile Chinook catch through March 5, 2020, at the rotary crew trap near Caswell State Park. Data courtesy of Fishbio.

USFWS conducts the Mossdale Trawl on the mainstem San Joaquin River. Since the start of the water year (October 1, 2019), no Chinook salmon or *O. mykiss* have been reported at that monitoring location (based on data from Bay Delta Live:

<https://www.baydeltalive.com/fish/djfmphighlights>)

Draft Stanislaus Operations Plan for Spring 2020

