

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

Conference call: 12/7/10, 9:00 a.m.

Objective: Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project on salmonids and green sturgeon.

DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap.htm>

DWR: Angela Llaban, Mike Ford, Andy Chu

FWS: Nick Hindman

NMFS: Barb Byrne, Barbara Rocco, Bruce Oppenheim, Jeff Stuart, Garwin Yip

DFG: Dan Kratville

Reclamation: Thuy Washburn, John Hannon

SWRCB, EPA: not present

Note: The Fish Restoration Program Agreement (formerly Delta fish agreement and 4-Pumps Agreement) was signed by DWR and DFG in October. This began back in about 2007; there are a lot of restoration projects involved, such as \$12 million for the Battle Creek restoration project.

Agenda

- 1) Fish monitoring
- 2) Operations
- 3) Spring-run surrogate releases
- 4) Other business

Fish Monitoring (11/22-12/6)

Red Bluff Diversion Dam: no green sturgeon adults; there were some tagged ones in the river above RBDD, but no other reports yet.

Tisdale Weir: one winter run (73 mm) on 12/6/10

Moulton Weir: three winter run (68–85 mm) on 12/6/10

Mill & Deer Creeks: no report yet for this week

Knights Landing: No winter run since one caught on 11/22/10

Mossdale Trawl: no juvenile Chinook or steelhead yet. We usually see some steelhead smolts coming down San Joaquin River by this time but have not see any yet, which is not a good indicator of the population this year.

Stanislaus Weir: No adults yet this year.

Chippis Is. Trawl: data not available for call, (after the call 1 late-fall Chinook, 11 delta smelt, and 1 longfin smelt)

Salvage Data: CVP: DFG reported data up to Sunday, 12/5/10, CVP started getting winter-run on Friday (12/3/10; one), 14 on Saturday (12/4/10), five on Sunday (12/5/10). The expanded

total was four on Friday, 51 on Saturday, and 18 on Sunday. A pulse of winter run came through over the weekend. The total expanded loss was 47 so far through 12/5/10. Three more were counted at the CVP this morning, 12/7/10. Total expanded salvage was 73.

Fish density was 4.3 fish on Saturday (per 1,000 af); to require an export reduction per Action IV.2.3. DOSS should look at the NMFS proposal for the second trigger in Action IV.2.3 to get concurrence before January when it could be used for responding to objectives of Action IV.2.3.

SWP: No species of concern – none recorded by DFG

Operations

Sacramento River: Keswick Dam releasing 5,800 cfs

American River: Reclamation has done a few pulse flows and will do another one soon. DFG counted about 6,000 fall-run spawners off the weir, which represents fish spawning below Nimbus Dam. The carcass surveys counted about 7–8,000 fall-run so far this year. There was no observed stranding as a result of the pulse flows. DFG is removing the weir either today or tomorrow; flows will increase to 3,800 cfs until the hydrology and storage are figured out. Reclamation will increase Folsom Dam release to 7,000 cfs on Thursday – 2-day pulse; and then bring it back down. After that, another pulse of 10–15,000 cfs is possible. Flood management space in Folsom Reservoir is encroached and Reclamation is being more aggressive about meeting SAFCA and USCOE criteria; upper reservoirs are full. These increased flows should all inflow into the Delta, which will remain high for a while. Water quality should improve.

Weather and flows into the Delta: Storms coming in are geared more to the north; will be warmer; runoff will continue. Close to 30k cfs coming into the Delta. Some of the San Joaquin reservoirs are already making flood control releases. Tuolumne (Don Pedro) flows still high but coming down — 4,500 cfs by the end of last week; the reservoir was down about 5,800 af before the storm. Hetch Hetchy and Don Pedro are releasing flows now. Tuolumne River below La Grange is down to 3,000 cfs this morning.

Stanislaus River at Goodwin Dam: 200 cfs

Sacramento River at Verona: 20–25k cfs; increasing with more with storms

San Luis Reservoir: 634 taf on the CVP side

Feather River at Oroville Dam: Releasing 1,750 cfs

DCC Gates: The gates were closed 12/1 and will remain closed as scheduled. No water quality concerns at this time.

Spring-Run Surrogate Release

We still need to come up with a date for the hatchery late-fall Chinook being released later this month. Surrogate release proposal will be 12/28–30 for first release; mid-January (1/13–14; or 1/17–18) for the second and third releases. Will need to watch the weather; it takes a few days to get ready for the releases. We heard yesterday that the Coleman National Fish Hatchery (CNFH)

late-fall production releases would begin today or tomorrow. For the surrogates: Can we release one-half in December and one-half in January?

Action: Bruce will check with CNFH regarding the releases and report back.

Annual Review

The annual review report of last year's actions should be coming out officially from the Delta Science Program with a cover letter by next Thursday, 12/16/10.

Other Business

- 1) DOSS Notes: We are working on getting the DOSS notes updated and uploaded to the website. Barb B. and Barbara R. are working on this.
- 2) Salvage: Add "second trigger" information to agenda for next week.
- 3) Georgiana Slough non-physical barrier project: NMFS has finishing reviewing the comments on the final draft version on the barrier. Next step: The USCOE considers the construction permit. The study design will use acoustically tagged fish and will have 10 releases of 150 fish per releases; the study should run from March 1 through mid-April. The receivers at Chipps Island can track fish that have been released; we should get a survival estimate after release of the tagged fish. There should be a detailed write up of the study plan soon; 200 tagged fish will be used for this efficiency test. Hope to have enough tagged to get a robust sample size for facility operations. The Sacramento Bee has an article about this today.
- 4) WOMT call: There's not much going on but fish are moving so it wouldn't hurt to update everyone. It was agreed to have a short WOMT call today.

DOSS Advice for NMFS and WOMT: No advice for this week

Next Meeting

Conference call: 12/14/10 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.