

WOMT Notes

January 12, 2016 Meeting

1. General Information:

CVP

- *Keswick Releases to upper Sacramento River @ 3250 cfs*
- *Nimbus Releases to lower American River @ 500 cfs*
- *Goodwin Release to Stanislaus River @ 200 cfs*
- *Jones Pumping Plant @ 3800 cfs*
- *Delta Cross-Channel Gates: Closed*
- *Federal Share of San Luis @ 90 TAF*

SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 950 cfs*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 2300 cfs*
- *State Share of San Luis @ 442 TAF*

Delta

- *Freeport Flow approx. 18,294 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow approx. 1368 cfs*
- *Delta Outflow approx. 18,149 cfs*

- *E/I Ratio 41% (14 day avg.)*

OMR (cfs):

- INDEX (as of 1/9/2016):
 - 4617cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 4509 cfs (14 day avg.)
- USGS (as of 1/9/2016):
 - 3896 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - No 14 day average because of gauge malfunction

FISHERY UPDATES:

DOSS

- Met this morning, no advice
- RPA IV.1.2: DCC Gates Closed since 12/15/15
- RPA IV.2.3: No triggers hit this week; continue OMR \geq -5000 cfs
- Big pulse of Chinook catch with turbidity/flow increase last week, but few winter-run Chinook seen
- Estimate of young-of-year winter-run Chinook distribution: 75-90% in Delta, 10-25% upstream of Delta and 0-1% exited Delta
- Estimate of young-of-year spring-run Chinook distribution: 30% in Delta, 70% upstream of Delta and 0-1% exited Delta
- Entrainment risk for young-of-year winter-run and young-of-year spring-run is:
 - Interior Delta: MEDIUM to HIGH
 - CVP/SWP Export Facilities: MEDIUM to HIGH

SWG

Delta Smelt – The Working Group reviewed current Delta Smelt distribution and salvage data, and current Delta conditions. The Working Group considers the proposed current operations to carry a high risk of Delta Smelt entrainment.

The Working Group has been reviewing the guidance in the 2008 BiOp for Action 1 and Action 2 under the RPA Component 1, both of which are designed to protect pre-spawn adult Delta Smelt from entrainment. Action 1 provides protection of adult Delta Smelt during the "initial pulse of (the) prespawning migration" (p 331). Action 2 reflects the "period when OMR prescriptions for pre-spawning adult delta smelt are still required to protect parental stock" once "the main pulse of fish migration has occurred and adults are holding more tightly to their selected spawning areas" (p 355).

Though neither the prescribed turbidity trigger (12NTU at PPT, HOL and VCU), nor the salvage trigger (3 days of salvage of Delta Smelt) have been met, the DWR turbidity transect survey and FWS early warning survey indicate that fish movement has occurred, and entrainment protection actions consistent with the intent Action 1 are needed.

The Working Group will continue to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions and will meet again next Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 10am.

Longfin Smelt – No advice this week. Positive QWEST values are projected for near future, which are favorable for adult longfin. Available data suggests a poor run of adults so far, DFW believes subsequent trawls will provide more information on the abundance and distribution of adult longfin population. Barker Slough pumping restrictions can be activated on or after Jan. 15 if survey information triggers the restrictions.

NMFS – No new determination at this time.

USFWS – Is aware of the SWG recent advice, but no determination has been made at this time. A draft determination for consideration will likely be discussed internally later this afternoon.

DFW – No determination.

SWRCB:

Division of Water Rights – Nothing to report – requested that OCO provide link showing what constraint is "controlling" operations (Aaron Miller will do).

Delta Watermaster's Office – Nothing to report

2. WOMT Decisions - None

