

WOMT Notes

March 1, 2016 Meeting

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

CVP

- *Keswick Releases to upper Sacramento River @ 3250 cfs*
- *Nimbus Releases to lower American River @ Ramping down, will be at 3,000 cfs at 2 AM tomorrow, 3/2*
- *Goodwin Release to Stanislaus River @ 200 cfs*
- *Jones Pumping Plant @ 3400 cfs*
- *Delta Cross-Channel Gates: Closed*
- *Federal Share of San Luis @ 311 TAF*

SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 800 cfs*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 2,360 cfs*
- *State Share of San Luis @ 577 TAF*

Delta

- *Freeport Flow @. 15,393 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow @ 793 cfs*
- *Delta Outflow approx. 10,200 cfs*

- *E/I Ratio 30 % (14 day average)*
- *X2 @ 70 km*
- *Factor Constraining Operations :OMR no more negative than -5000 cfs per USFWS determination and Action IV.2.3 of NMFS Biological Opinion (both simultaneously apply)*

OMR (cfs) (Not including CCWD Rock Slough exports):

- INDEX (as of 2/27/2016):
 - 5000 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 4990 cfs (14 day avg.)
- USGS (as of 2/27/2016):
 - 5070 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 5143 cfs (14 day avg.)

FISHERY UPDATES:

DOSS –

- DOSS met this morning and provided no advice
- RPA IV.1.2: DCC Gates closed since Dec. 15
- RPA IV.2.3: No triggers exceeded past week, OMR limit of -5000 cfs in effect
- Movement of wild fish into the Delta remains low compared to catches in wet January.
- Still seeing medium catches (primarily YOY fall-run) of wild fish in seines; not surprising given that many Chinook and steelhead that moved into the Delta in the past few months are still in the Delta.
- WR- acoustic tagging – 30% of the 570 acoustic-tagged fish passed receivers at Tower Bridge; 17% have passed Hood; None yet observed at Middle River or in salvage.
- Salvage of wild Chinook and steelhead has been low over the past week; salvage of hatchery steelhead quite high over past week – likely from Nimbus hatchery releases into American River in February.

- Estimate of young-of-year winter-run Chinook distribution: Less than 5% upstream, Greater than 95% in Delta, Less than 5% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year spring-run Chinook distribution: 30-40% upstream, 60-70% in Delta, 0-5% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year hatchery winter-run Chinook distribution: Greater than 50% upstream, 25-50% in Delta, Less than 5% exited Delta
- Overall entrainment risk for young-of-year winter-run and young-of-year spring-run in Interior Delta: MEDIUM
- Overall entrainment risk for young-of-year winter-run and young-of-year spring-run in CVP/SWP Export Facilities:
LOW-MEDIUM for OMR between -2500 cfs to -3500 cfs;
MEDIUM for OMR between -3500 cfs to -5000 cfs

SWG –

Delta Smelt – The Working Group reviewed current Delta Smelt distribution, salvage data, and Delta conditions.

The Working Group described the risk of entrainment under the Service-provided advice framework. Under this framework the relative risk of entrainment for OMR flow ranges is discussed and assessed. For the current week, the risk of entrainment of adult delta smelt for each of the flow ranges is characterized as follows:

- -1250 to -2000 cfs has a low risk of entrainment,
- -2000 to -3500 cfs has a medium risk of entrainment,
- -3500 to -5000 cfs has a medium to high risk of entrainment.

The Working Group is following guidance for entrainment protections from both Action 2 (adult Delta Smelt) and Action 3 (juvenile Delta Smelt). The risk values provided for this week refer to adult Delta Smelt. The Working Group will continue to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions, and will meet again on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 10 am.

Longfin Smelt – Modest increases in longfin density per most recent larval surveys. No recommendation for export facilities. Barker Slough pump restriction remains in effect until further notice.

SWRCB:

Division of Water Rights – Nothing to report

Delta Watermaster's Office – Nothing to report

REGULATORY AGENCY FINDINGS –

NMFS – No new determination needed.

USFWS – Aware of the SWG meeting and advice. Most recent determination remains in effect at this time.

DFW – Nothing additional to report.

WOMT Decisions - None