

WOMT Notes

April 5, 2016 Meeting

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

CVP

- *Keswick Releases to upper Sacramento River @ 5,000 cfs*
- *Nimbus Releases to lower American River @ 3,000 cfs*
- *Goodwin Release to Stanislaus River @ 200 cfs through weekend, then “pulse flows” according to 2-E schedule*
- *Jones Pumping Plant @ 1,000 cfs*
- *Delta Cross-Channel Gates: Closed*
- *Federal Share of San Luis @ 408 TAF*

SWP

- *Oroville Release to Feather River @ 1,600 cfs and decreasing to 1050 cfs on Thursday*
- *Clifton Court Allotment @ 500 cfs*
- *State Share of San Luis @ 641 TAF*

Delta

- *Freeport Flow @. 25,200 cfs*
- *Vernalis Flow @ 900 cfs*

- *Delta Outflow approx. 24,000 cfs*
- *E/I Ratio 3 % (14 day average)*
- *Factor Constraining Operations : NMFS Bi Op Action IV.2.1 – I/E Ratio*

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

- INDEX (as of 4/2/2016):
 - 2560 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 3479 cfs (14 day avg.)
- USGS (as of 4/2/2016):
 - 2713 cfs (5 day avg.)
 - 3440 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
- RPA IV.2.1: San Joaquin River I/E ratio: Started April 1 – End May
- Seeing continued catch of fall-run and spring-run sized fish (unclipped) in all monitoring efforts in the Sacramento River and North Delta, including 791 FRCS and 107 SRCS in the beach seines and 106 FRCS and 236 SRCS in the Knights Landing monitoring. Most of these fish are likely from the Coleman Hatchery releases of production FRCS in March. Average size of fish released were close to the minimum size at date for SRCS.
- Also uptick of clipped Chinook catch as well; (fish may be from Coleman Hatchery release of FRCS production on March 14 and 22 and from Feather River Hatchery release of SRCS on March 24).
- Salvage of wild SR, overall trend of wild fish salvage has decreased this past week.
- Wild steelhead were captured, trend is increasing this past week.

- Still observing clipped SRCS from SJRRP releases at the facilities, mainly CVP. Trend is decreasing this past week.
- Salvage of hatchery steelhead is declining over past week.
- Estimate of young-of-year winter-run Chinook distribution: Less than 1% upstream, 25-40% in Delta, 60-75% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year spring-run Chinook distribution: Less than 5% upstream, 30-40% in Delta, 55-65% exited Delta;
- Estimate of young-of-year hatchery winter-run Chinook distribution: Less than 1% upstream, 10-20% in Delta, 80-90% exited Delta
- Overall entrainment risk for young-of-year winter-run and young-of-year spring-run in Interior Delta: LOW
- Overall entrainment risk for young-of-year winter-run and young-of-year spring-run in CVP/SWP Export Facilities:
 - LOW for OMR between -2500 cfs to -3500 cfs;
 - LOW for OMR between -3500 cfs to -5000 cfs
 - Could change from LOW to MEDIUM if steelhead start to be observed in Mossdale trawls.

SWG

Delta Smelt – The Working Group agreed that given present distribution, current salvage, and Delta conditions, there was no indication that the projected combined exports of approximately 1500 cfs for the week (potentially resulting in daily average OMR flows of approximately -1800 cfs) need to be modified for the protection of Delta Smelt adults and larvae.

The Working Group agreed that entrainment risk will increase to medium to high as OMRs become more negative than -2000cfs

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. Should OMR flow become more negative than -2000 cfs, the SWG will reconvene to assess the risk of entrainment. For the current week, the risk of entrainment of larval and juvenile Delta Smelt for each of the flow ranges is characterized as follows:

- -1250 to -2000 cfs has a low risk of entrainment,
- -2000 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 Working Group will continue to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions, and will meet again on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 10 am.

Longfin Smelt – No advice for week; with NMFS Action IV.2.1 export restriction in place, the risk of entrainment is low due to positive QWESTs, hatching may be completed for this season.

SWRCB:

Division of Water Rights – Nothing to report

Delta Watermaster's Office – Nothing to report

REGULATORY AGENCY FINDINGS –

NMFS – Reiterated requests for letters from Reclamation re: 1) OMR indice pilot program extension and 2) establishment of Rapid Genetic Testing protocol

USFWS – Current determination (issued March 25: OMR no more negative than -2500 cfs on a 14 day average) remains in effect.

DFW – Nothing additional to report.

WOMT Decisions - None