



Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 01/23/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Elissa Buttermore, Randi Field, Nick Bertrand, Chase Ehlo, Erika Kegel, Kristi Arend
- USFWS: Leif Goude
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Brian Schreier, Nicole Kwan, Farida Islam, Kat Osborn
- SWRCB: Matt Holland
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Darcy Austin (SWC), Ian Buck-MacLeod (FWA), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Sarah Piramoon (Valley Water), Jose Rangel (WWD), Tom Boardman (WWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA)

Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Due to the last storm series, facility volumes are/or are approaching encroaching in the flood management space, increasing the likelihood for elevated releases.
- Currently releasing 1,000 cfs downstream from Goodwin into the Stanislaus River with a change order to continue to manage the flood space due to the recent storm events, increasing releases to 1,500 cfs on Friday (1/26/2024).
- Freeport and Vernalis flows are in flux, increasing as a response to recent precipitation and runoff.
- A First Flush Action (Integrated Early Winter Pulse Protection) was triggered this week on January 21, 2024.
- JPP is currently targeting 3,600 cfs with a change order on Wednesday (1/24/2024) to reach 2,700 cfs, and decreasing through the week until the export rate reaches 1,800 cfs.
- Salinity conditions remain favorable in the Delta.
- Clifton Court exports are at 300 cfs today, progressively increasing later this week in response to increased Vernalis flows.

- SWP and CVP are coordinating exports to avoid exceeding the 14-day averaged -2,000 cfs OMR requirement.
- Refer to the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: When do you expect to go to 2 units at JPP and is it sooner than this weekend?
 - Answer: We are not sure yet. It will likely be this weekend on Saturday or Sunday. However, it might be early next week.
- Question: When is the last day of First Flush Action scheduled for?
 - Answer: February 5th is the last day of the 14-day period required for First Flush. Note that the trigger mechanism of when the event can be triggered is for December through January, and does not apply in February. But once the action has been triggered, it needs to go for 14 days, meaning export reductions will continue into February.

Review PA Assessment (USBR)

Reclamation then provided the PA Assessment update. For more information, please refer to the PA Assessment document.

Additional Questions or Comments

- No additional questions or comments.

Review ITP Risk Assessment (DWR)

DWR provided the LFS update. For more information, please refer to the ITP Risk Assessment document.

Additional Questions or Comments

- No additional questions or comments.

Acronyms

- CVP – Central Valley Project
- DCC – Delta Cross Channel
- DOI – Delta Outflow Index
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- DCI – Delta Mendota Canal – California Aqueduct Intertie
- DS – Delta Smelt
- FNU – Formazin Nephelometric Unit

- I:E – Inflow to Export
- IOP – Interim Operations Plan
- ITP – Incidental Take Permit
- JPE – Juvenile Production Estimate
- LFS – Longfin Smelt
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
- OBI – Old River Bacon Island Station
- OMR – Old and Middle River Tidally Averaged Flow
- PA – Proposed Action (Federal)
- PTM – Particle Tracking Model
- SaMT – Salmon Monitoring Team
- SLS – Smelt Larval Survey
- SMT – Smelt Monitoring Team
- SWP – State Water Project
- SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
- TFCF – Tracy Fish Collection Facility
- TUCP – Temporary Urgency Change Petition
- TUCO – Temporary Urgency Change Order
- USBR – United States Bureau of Reclamation
- WCS – Winter Run Chinook Salmon
- WOMT – Water Operations Management Team
- WQ – Water Quality
- YOY – Young of Year