

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 04/16/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Randi Field, Nick Bertrand, Erika Kegel, Cat Pien, Brian Mahardja, Elissa Buttermore, Kristi Arend, Grace Easterbrook
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Erica Meyers
- DWR: Mike Ford, Brian Schreier, Farida Islam, Katie Osborn
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Tom Boardman (WWD), Jose Rangel (WWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Sarah Piramoon (Valley Water), Yuan Liu (CCWD)

Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- The 2024 IOP is expected to control CVP exports to a daily average of approximately 900-1,000 cfs this week.
- The San Joaquin Water Year Classification is Above Normal.
- On the Stanislaus River, Goodwin releases were 400 cfs early in the day and 300 cfs at the end of the day and will hit a peak of 2,000 cfs over the next week for spring pulse flow. Flows are anticipated to fluctuate for spring pulse flows through April and into May.
- Freeport daily average flows yesterday were estimated to be 31,600 cfs.
- Vernalis daily average flows yesterday were approximately 5,700 cfs.
- JPP exports will be zero for a short period of time for maintenance activities (4/16- 4/18), then increasing to a 2-unit operation so daily average exports will still be between 900-1,000 cfs, targeting a daily average of 970 cfs.
- Salinity conditions across the Delta are favorable; April X2 requirements have been met for Port Chicago. There are likely to be 10 carryover days from April to May, and 15 days are required, so there will likely be 5 additional days at Port Chicago.
- On the Feather River, releases from Oroville Dam have dropped to 6,000 cfs today and will decrease by 1,000-2,000 cfs by the end of the week to reach 4,000 cfs by this weekend.
- Clifton Court is at 600 cfs and will remain there for the rest of the week.
- The CVP is continuing current export rates and exchanges with the State.

- Refer to the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- **Question:** Are concerns of salvage rates for winter-run and steelhead the primary reasons for decreases to JPP exports? The IOP requires CVP to curtail 100 TAF during April and May in an Above Normal Year type on the San Joaquin, so do these decreases in exports build credit toward the 100 TAF curtailment required under the IOP?
 - **Answer:** We are awaiting direction on this from the Director or Sub-Director level. Once this information is available, the Facilitation Team will distribute it to DMW.
- **Question:** Is it the baseline that's in dispute? In other words, what you measure against to quantify the 100 TAF curtailment?
 - **Answer:** Specifics have not been determined regarding where it's measured from, when you start accounting, and all the details that add up to the accumulation of the 100 TAF curtailment per the IOP.
- **Question:** It sounds like exports are being cut with the 100 TAF curtailment in mind and the rate of salvage. It appears there is more salvage of steelhead and salmon at the State fish facility (Skinner) than the Federal facility (JPP). Is there any consideration to move pumping to JPP to reduce high salvage rates at Skinner?
 - **Answer:** This has been discussed. It does not seem to be a feasible option to move the water exclusively at the Federal facility.
- **Question:** To clarify, this option has been discussed and ruled out?
 - **Answer:** Yes, this discussion occurred several weeks ago. There were unresolvable challenges with that approach.

Review PA Assessment (USBR)

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

Additional Questions or Comments

- No additional questions.

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

- **Question:** What was the length of the juvenile salvage?
 - **Answer:** 40 millimeters.
- **Question:** Is there anything besides Section 8.17 controlling outflow?

- **Answer:** It is 8.17 and the 2024 IOP. Condition 8.4.2 was not triggered, so there is no LFS advice.

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
- ITL – Incidental Take Limit
- 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