

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 04/30/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- Reclamation: Randi Field, Nick Bertrand, Erika Kegel, Elissa Buttermore, Grace Easterbrook, Kristi Arend, Cat Pien, Brian Mahardja
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Erica Meyers
- DWR: Mike Ford, Brian Schreier, Farida Islam
- SWRCB: Craig Williams
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Yuan Liu (CCWD), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Jose Rangel (WWD), Ian Buck Macleod (Friant WA), Deanna Sereno (CCWD)

Review Operations Outlook (Reclamation, DWR)

- The weather forecast for the week ahead still indicates spring instability.
- There is no final guidance on the accounting for the CVP exports this week (controlled by the 2024 IOP with 100,000 AF curtailed exports). But estimates are at approximately 65,000 AF of curtailment accrued. This may shift as numbers are finalized.
- There was an early morning change today (4/30) from 7,000 to 6,000 cfs at Keswick Dam to the Sacramento River. There are possible change orders in the coming week at Keswick for a spring pulse flow.
- There were changes on the American River on 4/27 from 5,000 to 4,000 cfs and holding. Observation of inflows and storage management will continue.
- On the San Joaquin side, pulse activity continues. Today (4/30) the peak high flow was at 2,500 cfs and ramped down to 2,250 cfs from Goodwin into the Stanislaus River; there are change orders out for May to continue pulses through the end of the month and into June.
- For the Delta, there are reductions in contributions from the Sacramento and San Joaquin sides. But there is still variability at Vernalis due to the pulse flows on the Stanislaus River and other locations.
- The wide range of exports at JPP (900-1,800 cfs) is due to uncertainty in upstream flood management actions and Vernalis flows. April X2 requirements have been met for Port Chicago with 19 days this month. Expecting about 14 days for May with an estimated 11

carryover days, resulting in 3-4 additional compliance days at Port Chicago. No additional actions are anticipated.

- At Oroville Dam there was a pulse on the Feather River last week in coordination with CDFW to move out hatchery fish. Releases are currently at 4,000 cfs and holding. But the range is still 3,000 to 5,000 cfs due to potential rain and maxed out storage.
- At Clifton Court, exports are at 600 cfs and expected to hold there for the rest of May.
- Refer to the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: Does the 65,000 AF assume combined operations meeting a -2,500 OMRI?
 - Answer: The preliminary assumption is that it's a joint -2,500 OMRI target for the projects.
- Question: Did you assume 60% of that capacity?
 - Answer: Operating at normal is assumed so the appropriate splits are being maintained.

Review PA Assessment (Reclamation)

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

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: What is the current consensus on the distribution of steelhead? Is there any indication of 95% of the steelhead population leaving the system by early June?
 - Answer: We haven't projected out that far yet. Currently, 20-40% are estimated in the Delta. There is uncertainty about the distribution relative to when temperature offramps or date offramps might go into place for the OMR season.
- Question: For cumulative salvage other than juvenile, are the rest hatchery releases of Delta Smelt?
 - Answer: The rest were adults from the hatchery releases.
- Question: Were the salvaged juveniles wild or hatchery fish?
 - Answer: We do not have that information. There is currently no ability to determine the genetic origin of a YOY fish.
 - Answer: There is currently an R&D project through UC Davis to explore grandparentage.

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.

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