Meeting Minutes
Diversion Effects on Fisheries
March 18, 1998
9:00 to 12:00pm

Action Items
1) Species teams will meet right away and fill out matrix.
2) Ron will contact stakeholders and let them know to what team they are assigned.
3) Lee Miller's striped bass team matrix will be the first to be reviewed at the next general meeting.
4) Next general meeting Thursday, April 9th, 9:30 - 12:00, Room 1147 CALFED.

Species Teams
Salmon (All runs, Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers)
Co-Chairs: Sheila Greene and Pat Brandes
Stakeholder: Serge Birk
Other species: Steelhead

Delta Smelt
Co-Chairs: Dale Sweetnam and Larry Brown
Stakeholder: Chuck Hanson
Other species:

Striped Bass
Chair: Lee Miller
Stakeholder: Elise Holland
Other species: American Shad

Stakeholders
Those stakeholder listed above will be ask to serve on those specific species teams. The following stakeholders will be ask to participate in the general meetings:
- Pete Roads
- Jim Buell

Impact Matrix
- Each individual team will define the factors that affect the live stages of their species. These same factors must be evaluated for existing conditions, no action, common programs and alternatives 1, 2 and 3.

- If possible classify the impacts if direct or indirect for a species.

- Set up the matrix on a water year bases, October thru September.

- In describing impacts include a statement of level of certainty of assessment. (i.e. little known, no data, highly variable etc.)

- Make a statement of data needs to make assessment (i.e. need model runs to show future flows at Rio Vista, QWEST or salinity at a point in Delta for a certain year type, etc.)

- Use a scale to describe the impact on a species live stage by month where:
  +3 a strong positive effect
  +2 positive effect
  +1 slight positive effect
  0 no effect
  -1 slight negative effect
  -2 negative effect
  -3 strong negative effect

- In scaling compare each alternative to the existing conditions. What is included in the existing conditions, no action, common programs and alternatives 1, 2, and 3 are set out in the Phase 2 report.

- In general, specify what year type is critical for the species live stage (wet, critical dry etc.)

- Lee's team matrix on striped bass will be the "strawman" for review at the next general meeting in April.

- Need the first cut of all matrices completed by the end of April.

- Ron will coordinate letting each team member know about schedule of all team and sub team meetings.

General

Possible outcomes from the teams evolution process could include:

- Definition of operations criteria needed to minimize the effects on fisheries for each alternative.

- Possible changes to alternatives 1, 2, and 3. (i.e. should there be a screen at hood for alternative 2?)

- If the alternative is to be staged (completed in phases), suggestions as to type of

monitoring, evaluation, and indicators required to trigger going on to phase 2, or 3 etc.

Questions that Policy Team and stakeholders will be looking to this team to clarify:

- How would fish populations be expected to respond if effects of diversions are reduced, thereby reducing direct and indirect mortality?
- Can diversion effects be offset by habitat improvements?
- Which species, populations, and life stages are most sensitive to diversion effects? When and where are they most affected?
- What uncertainty exists regarding diversion effects on fish species?
- What Sacramento River flow is required below a Hood diversion to protect salmon, striped bass, and delta smelt?
- What is the expected effect of potential operational plans under each alternative? Which species would benefit? Which would be harmed? Can operational plans be flexible to fish needs?
- Have alternatives been tested through a large enough range of operational policies to fully evaluate potential beneficial and adverse impacts?
- How would fish populations be expected to respond to the direct and indirect effects of each alternative?
- Do we have sufficient information to predict the probability of fish species recovery under each alternative?
- Can we recover the species with just the common programs?
- To what degree of certainty can we recover the species in each of the three alternatives?

Next Meeting
Review First draft matrixies and refine process.
Thursday, April 9th, 9:30 - 12:00, Room 1147 CALFED