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Subject: SUMMARY OF DAT CONFERENCE CALL MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1999
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SUMMARY OF DAT CONFERENCE CALL MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1999

Participants : Jim White, Marty Kjelson, Roger Guinee, Mark Pierce,
Andy Hamilton, Michele Simpson, Sheila Greene,
Bruce Herbold, Pete Rhoads, Serge Birk, Victor Pacheco,
John Leahigh, Kate Le, Chet Bowling, Paul Fujitani,
Jim Snow, David Briggs, Kevan Urquart

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The interior Delta continues to exceed salinity conditions considered necessary to maintain compliance through the upcoming spring tidal cycle. Although, there was a decrease at Jersey Point and Antioch, those current conditions remain above those in place prior to the previous spring tidal cycle. The changes at these locations are primarily due to increased Delta outflow (resulting from increasing releases from Oroville and reducing exports) and the neap tidal cycle.

Water quality continues to degrade at the Tracy Pumping Plant and Clifton Court Forebay intake locations which must also maintain compliance with the 250 mg/l chloride standard.

Chlorides are estimated in the range of 135 mg/l to 165 mg/l and are projected to continue to increase as field measurements at the Bacon station were reported above 240 mg/l last Friday.

Last week, water quality improved at Rock Slough because Contra Costa shifted pumping to Rock Slough, and there was good quality water trapped in the area. This week the water quality in degrading in Old River and at Rock Slough.

Chlorides at Rock Slough are 190 mg/l today and are expected to increase to 200 mg/l Tuesday. Exports were reduced last Friday, 12/10. The CVP reduced to 800 cfs to implement b(2) water and improve water quality. The SWP reduced to 3,300 cfs to improve water quality. Today, the SWP operators suspended intake at 800 acre feet this morning to consider further reductions from the 3,300 cfs. DWR management approved further reductions from the 3,300 cfs and SWP resumed operations at a maximum of 800 cfs until further notice.

The operators reported reducing exports to 3,300 cfs and increasing Sacramento flow over the weekend did not have the effect of improving water quality in the interior and south Delta sufficiently to avoid exceeding salinity standards in the next few weeks. This is same conclusion they advised us of last week.

Last week DAT requested a water quality model run to estimate the

magnitude and timing of the effect of Cross Channel Gate operation, exports, and outflow in water quality in the several areas of the Delta. The model run will not be available until later this week, likely after the water quality questions have been resolved during real time operations.

CHINOOK MONITORING

The DAT provided a Biological Justification for Keeping the Cross Channel Gates closed to CALFED Ops this morning. It was distributed through the DAT reflector and to the NoName Group.

GCID - the catch at GCID decreased to nearly 0 Chinook last week.

TISDALE AND KNIGHTS LANDING - No Chinook were caught at either location over the weekend.

SACRAMENTO - 2 yearling sized Chinook were caught in the beach seine near Sacramento last Friday, 12/10. No Chinook were caught Saturday and the gear were not operated Sunday.

CHIPPS ISLAND - 1 yearling sized Chinook and 1 Coleman late-fall November release were caught today.

The Delta Action 8 Smolt Survival Experiment started last Friday. The Chinook were released in Georgiana Slough Friday, 12/10 and at Isleton Saturday, 12/11.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The operators recommended opening the Cross Channel Gates (as they did last week) to improve water quality and for water quality control in the next few weeks. If the Cross Channel gates were opened now, exports would have to remain reduced until conditions at Jersey Point are better than conditions in the southern Delta or the conditions in the southern Delta fall below 0.7 mS/cm to ensure compliance at the SWP and CVP exports locations.

The fishery biologists emphasized closing the Cross Channel Gates provides the maximum protection for Chinook emigrating from the Sacramento basin.

Several recommendations from the fishery biologists were discussed at length ranging from keeping the gates closed to opening the gates, and the DAT compromised on an intermediate recommendation. The recommendation was opening the Cross Channel gates for about 6 hours each day, during regular business hours, to improve water quality because reducing exports over the weekend didn't resolve the water quality problem resulting from the next spring tide. Opening the gates part of the day still provides some protection for fish and still provides some protection for water quality. We would assume we are sacrificing some spring run yearlings, but based on the fish monitoring data we would not be opening the gates during a pulse or peak emigration period. We would also assume we are compromising the Delta Action 8 Smolt Survival Experiment.

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