

From: Martin_Kjelson@fws.gov[SMTP:Martin_Kjelson@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 1999 9:20 AM
To: dbriggs@ccwater.com; bherbold@aol.com; clcreel@water.ca.gov;
swri@ix.netcom.com; gary.stern@noaa.gov; jwhite@hq.dfg.ca.gov;
lgage@water.ca.gov; lploss@mp.usbr.gov; gg-mee@ixnetcom.com;
pherrge@delta.dfg.ca.gov; Wayne_White@fws.gov; Roger_Guinee@fws.gov;
Mike_Spear@fws.gov; Mark_M_Pierce@fws.gov; Michael_Thabault@fws.gov;
sgreene@water.ca.gov
Subject: Recommended delta operations for salmon protection
Importance: High

On December 17 the salmon biologists made recommendations for spring-run protection relative to DCC, water quality and b-2 water use. These recommendations are meant to help us work through the period December 20 to January 3 when many people will be on vacation. We suggest we reassess the situation on January 3 for any further refinement. The following agency biologists will generally be available for decision making conference calls during the December 23rd to January 3rd period: Marty Kjelson (voice mail ext. 303), Mark Pierce (ext.309), Jim White, Gary Stern, Bruce Herbold. Rich Sitts of MWD also is available.

We assume the CVP/SWP operators in discussion with the No Name Group and consistent with the CALFED Ops decision process will continue to make recommendations to solve the water quality problem in the Delta. The biologist will continue to work with the operators to achieve the best balance for fish protection and water quality needs.

We recommended that:

1. The Delta Cross Channel remain open now in order for the water quality conditions to improve. At the same time we believe closure of the DCC during the Nov-Jan period is a critical tool to protect the fish and the up to 45 day closure for fish protection should be adhered as minimum protection.
2. The DCC be closed if the combined salmon catch (70-150mm) in the Knights Landing RST; Sacramento beach seines and Sacramento kodiac trawl is at or greater than 6 salmon/2 days. Closure will be for 5 consecutive days after this "trigger" of catch is observed and closure will continue if the "trigger" is repeated.
3. The DCC be closed if there is a 25% rise in Sacramento River flow or turbidity at Freeport.
4. "If No.2 or No.3 triggers are observed but the DCC is not closed due to water quality concerns then combined CVP/SWP exports should be limited to 4100cfs when the DCC remains open to assure the water quality is improved and to provide some level of fish protection"
5. B-2 water not be used in the Delta after December 23, 1999, unless there is an increase in flow, turbidity, or salmon "catch"

consistence with the above triggers. The use of b-2 water in the Delta in January for CVP export reduction will likely be associated with a storm event and or rise in fish abundance in the Delta or lower Sacramento River.

Bruce Herbold will lead an analysis effort to determine when during the day or at what stage of the tide (or other parameters) it would be best to close the DCC for fish protection if only short term closure is possible.

The biologists also will analyze the benefits of additional sampling effort at Sacramento or other areas of the lower Sacramento or delta.

As stated recently, the biologists do not believe sampling at more locations or a small increase in effort will substantially increase ability to detect peaks in salmon migration. We believe it is more important that sampling be at consistent level throughout the migration period because valuable information regarding fish movement could be missed if sampling is intercepted.

We will be ready to discuss these on the NNG conference call at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, 12/22/99.