

Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2019 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Participants

Charlie Chamberlin, FWS
Miles Daniels, NMFS
Randi Field, Reclamation
Sarah Gallagher, NMFS
John Hannon, Reclamation
Matt Johnson, CDFW
Liz Kiteck, Reclamation
Kenneth Kundargi, CDFW
Chris Laskodi, Yurok Tribe

Duane Linander, CDFW
Michael Macon, SWRCB
Erica Meyers, CDFW
Mike Prowatzke, WAPA
Diane Riddle, SWRCB
Mark Westbrook, Reclamation
Johnathan Williams, CDFW
Mike Wright, Reclamation
Garwin Yip, NMFS

Key Discussion Topics with Summary of Outcomes and Agreements

Meeting Purpose and Overview

Members of the Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) are provided status updates on Sacramento River seasonal temperature targets and anticipated performance. In addition, the Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan is developed and monitored as part of State Water Board Order 90-5 and the NMFS Biological Opinion Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) actions.

Fishery Updates

Matt Johnson from CDFW provided an update of current activities. Matt reported, as of August 16, observations of 2,954 winter run carcasses. This indicates a strong year for winter run. Redd dewatering and aerial surveys are on-going. Winter run spawning is winding down; the August 14 aerial survey found 6 new redds, however the last aerial survey detected no new redds. As of July 24, there were 110 shallow winter run redds observed, of these 16 redds are in 12 inches of water or less. Redd dewatering concerns are expected when flows reach near 5,000 cfs. The earliest shallow winter run redds are predicted to emerge from the gravels soon (August 23) with the remaining shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Forecasted winter run redd emergence dates.

Redds Emerging	Projected Date
4	9/11
3	9/25
4	10/9

3	10/18
1	10/23

Charlie Chamberlin provided update of activities at the Red Bluff Rotary Screw Trap. To date, 51,000 juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon were monitored passing downstream. The highest single day of captures thus far for brood year 2019 juvenile winter run Chinook salmon occurred yesterday (August 21) with capture topping 500 (capture only - not yet expanded for passage estimate).

Hydrology and Operations Update

See Meeting Agenda and Handouts for reference materials.

Randi Field from Reclamation reviewed system operations, temperatures, trends, Lake Shasta isothermal baths, Lake Shasta cold water pool volume, and the Shasta Temperature Control Device (TCD) configuration.

The Operations Outlook suggests Keswick Dam releases are expected to decrease in September assuming the USFWS' Fall X2 RPA action would be relaxed. However, the USFWS BiOp RPA Fall X2 action is still under discussion awaiting a final decision; the expected operational outcome is currently uncertain.

Temperature Management

See Meeting Agenda and Handouts for reference materials.

Operations are in active temperature management utilizing Upper Temperature Control Device (TCD) and Middle gates and Pressure Relief Gates (PRG). On August 7 Reclamation initiated temperature management to target 53.5°F at Airport Road (APR) following completion of several temperature simulation runs. Because no permanent real-time station exists at APR, surrogate real-time readings are made from BSF and CCR and temperature at APR is calculated. Variable weather conditions (i.e. heat waves) have made meeting the calculated APR more challenging, however recent TCD modifications are expected to draw APR closer to 53.5°F in the near future.

As reported in the last several months, the most recent Shasta Lake temperature profiles suggest the cold-water-pool volumes are still above average for similar historic time periods. Conditions still appear to be plentiful for future temperature management.

Preliminary modeling continues to show promising results. Remaining months appear to manage temperatures at or below 56°F at BSF, at or below 53.5°F at CCR, and at or below 53.5 at APR. End of September cold-water-pool volumes and temperature management performance (e.g. TCD side gate timing) continue to suggest extremely favorable temperature performance this year.

Additional Items

- Annual report efforts are underway, please help Sarah Gallagher and Randi Field if you have information for the draft document.

Next Meeting

The next SRTTG meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm., September 25, 2019, at 3310 El Camino Ave. Room 302, Sacramento, CA.

Addendum

- Based on information presented in the August 22, 2019 meeting, Keswick flow reductions were (scheduled) and executed:
 - (August 28, 2019) August 30, 2019 from 10,000 cfs to 9,500 cfs
 - (August 30, 2019) September 4, 2019 from 9,500 cfs to 9,000 cfs
 - (September 4, 2019) September 6, 2019 from 9,000 cfs to 8,500 cfs
- CDFW distributed new information regarding estimated dewatered flows September 5, 2019. Information previously distributed regarding estimated dewater flows at near 5,000 cfs was in error and has been corrected in subsequent updates.
- CDFW distributed a new Shallow Winter-Run Redd Update 9-17-19 spreadsheet on September 18, 2019. It was reported Redd #1576 was dewatered when Keswick flows dropped to 9,000 cfs on September 4, 2019.