

Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 2019 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Participants

Craig Anderson, USFWS
Miles Daniels, NMFS
Vadim Demchuk, SWRCB
Kyle De Juilio, Yurok Tribe
Randi Field, Reclamation
Mike Harris, CDFW
Sheena Holley, CDFW
Josh Israel, Reclamation
Matt Johnson, CDFW
Kenneth Kundargi, CDFW
Chris Laskodi, Yurok Tribe

Duane Linander, CDFW
Erica Meyers, CDFW
Mike Prowatzke, WAPA
Jeff Rieker, Reclamation
Alessia Siclari Melchor, SWRCB
Mark Westbrook, Reclamation
Craig Williams, SWRCB
Autumn Wolfe, WAPA
Mike Wright, Reclamation
Paul Zedonis, Reclamation

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 confirmed observation of 177 winter run redds from aerial surveys; 51 redds are located downstream of the Sacramento River above Clear Creek confluence station (CCR) and one redd farthest downstream at River Mile 282. An aerial redd survey flight is currently underway today. The ground crew is also looking for shallow redds and detected 38 in twelve inches of water or less. The shallowest redd is located in 5.5 inches of water at the kayak launch. The run appears to be more robust than the last two years and a population estimate is expected in the near future.

Jim Smith from USFWS was unable to attend, however Jim provided an update of the Livingston Stone Fish Hatchery activities via e-mail prior to the meeting, that e-mail is attached. No other information was available.

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.

Inflows have receded into Shasta Lake as winter activity has finally subsided. Shasta Lake reached a maximum capacity of 98% on May 31st. Keswick Dam releases are expected to increase in July and August to meet increasing downstream/Delta demands. Warming conditions are also expected in the near future.

Temperature Management

See Meeting Agenda and Handouts for reference materials.

Operations are in active temperature management utilizing three Upper Temperature Control Device (TCD) gates and two Middle gate.

As was reported last month, 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 and at or below 53.5°F at CCR. Cold-water-pool volumes and temperature management performance (e.g. TCD side gate timing) continue to suggest extremely favorable temperature performance this year. The simulated gate configuration is slightly more aggressive than the current configuration and suggest that we are able to conserve cold water pool as we experience cooler than expected weather in Redding.

Next Meeting

The next SRTTG meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm., July 25, 2019, at the USFWS Red Bluff Office.