



Interagency Ecological Program 2024 Work Plan Element Fish Facilities Monitoring

Project Manager and Affiliation

James Hobbs, CDFW

Timothy D. Malinich, CDFW

Principal Investigator and Affiliation

Virginia Afentoulis, CDFW

Annual Cost (thousands) and Funding Sources

\$400 USBR \$600 DWR

Description

Since 1957, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has salvaged fish at the Tracy Fish Collection Facility (TFCF). CDFW's Fish Facilities Unit, in cooperation with DWR, also began salvaging fish at the Skinner Delta Fish Protective Facility (SDFPF) in 1968. The salvaged fish are trucked daily and released at several sites in the western Delta. The schedule of fish hauling is dependent on salvage rates, debris loading, and special-status-species procedures. Salvage of fish at both facilities is conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week at regular intervals. Sampling of entrained fish at the SDFPF and TFCF is the source for CDFW's daily salvage and loss estimates for the monitoring of incidental take of listed fish species.

Need

The State Water Project (SWP), operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the Central Valley Project (CVP), operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, export water out of the San Francisco Bay Delta for urban and agricultural use in California. When water is exported, fish become entrained into the diversion.

Objectives

Fish salvage and loss information at the SDFPF and TFCF is used extensively in water project monitoring and planning. The Fish Facilities Monitoring Project manages the data collected on fish entrained and salvaged at the SDFPF and TFCF. Directed by cooperative agreements and funded by USBR and DWR, project staff are responsible for key entry, quality assurance, data processing, data reporting, and other database management activities for these facilities.

Staff participates, gives input, and feedback in multiagency SWP and CVP project work teams meetings (the Tracy Technical Advisory Team and Central Valley Fish Facilities Review Team, and Salvage Biology Meetings) where fish facility and water project

report documents, SOPs, permit document changes, and project work plans are presented.

Milestones

This project maintains one of the largest historical databases on Delta species available and has been used in assessing the effects of new facilities and programs, water project operations proposals, and evaluation of proposed CALFED alternatives.

Project Products and Publications

Afentoulis, V., W. Griffiths, M. Gilbert, T.D. Malinich. 2023. Understanding larval smelt presence in the south Delta and future implications for estimating entrainment. 2023 IEP workshop.

Malinich, T., M. Gilbert. 2023. Larval Delta and Longfin Smelt Entrainment Monitoring Status Report: Study Plan and Design.