
From: Howard Brown - NOAA Federal <howard.brown@noaa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2019 9:46 AM
To: John Stadler - NOAA Federal
Cc: Maria Rea; Garwin Yip
Subject: Re: Someone to speak to PFMC Habitat Committee

John, Attached is our response to the questions you provided. Thanks for reaching out to us on this.
Howard

On Wed, Apr 3, 2019 at 2:47 PM Maria Rea - NOAA Federal <maria.rea@noaa.gov> wrote:
Howard - - Can you get John some very generic status report on Biop talking points for the Habitat meeting next week? John - - we are not able to get into the type of detailed responses that are implied by these questions, because this would be pre-decisional.
- Maria

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Stadler - NOAA Federal <john.stadler@noaa.gov>
Date: April 3, 2019 at 2:34:19 PM PDT
To: Maria Rea - NOAA Federal <maria.rea@noaa.gov>
Cc: Kim Kratz <Kim.Kratz@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: Someone to speak to PFMC Habitat Committee

Hi Maria,
Kim said your staff is too busy with the Central Valley Project to meet with the habitat committee, and I totally understand. He also said that you offered to provide me with some talking points, which I think is an excellent idea - than you.

As I noted earlier, the Habitat Committee is quite interested in this project and has invited Doug Obegi, NRDC, to come and talk to us about it. Here are a few questions from one member (Arlene Merems, ODFW) that may help as your staff crafts the talking points. These are directly from the HC member and I am not sure what she is really asking for with some of them.

Regards,
John

Questions regarding the new BA for the CVP:

1. How are the directives in the President's October memo playing out regarding the CVP? (joint ESA/NEPA compliance, joint BA, short timeline, plans to suspend/rescind regulations and procedures, etc.)
2. Has Reclamation identified specific regulations or procedures as "burdensome", as directed in President's memo?

3. What are the key elements in Reclamations BA that will affect fish and habitat? NPR reports 10-15% increase in water supply to water districts, and eliminating rules that guarantee flows.
4. Status of Reclamations draft BO? And public comment opportunity?
5. Expected responses by NMFS/USFWS in BO and ESA review?

Questions regarding 2019 CVP operations:

1. Early February forecasts and modeling raised concerns by NMFS that projections were not conservative enough to ensure enough cold water storage in Shasta Reservoir for late season, and that the model underestimates late season temperatures by not incorporating ambient temperature data. There is less concern for storage volume now, thanks to atypical increases in precipitation from storms in late February. Nevertheless, under those early February conditions, the BOR model projected downstream late summer water temps of 55.8 F. The RPA action compliance DAT is 56.0F, and the historic max mean for fall is 56.3F. This year is projected to be hot, dry and long, as is the long term trend.
 - a. How can compliance temp be ensured if (a) the projected forecasts are not conservative enough (per NMFS), and (b) there is zero margin for error?
 - b. In 2016 the HC learned of specific issues that lead to temperature exceedances that likely resulted in egg mortality. The HC offered recommendations to improve safety margins for volume and temperature of the cold water storage and releases and for peer-review of their models for predicting egg-to-fry survival (*provide attached Council letter, 2016*). Were these recommendations incorporated into Reclamations water management plans going forward?
2. NMFS raises two additional concerns with this year's March forecasts: (1) the model indicates that periods in April and May will exceed DAT at compliance point due to extremely warm runoff from creeks upstream, and (2) Fall releases from Keswick dam could dewater winter and fall Chinook redds and stabilizing flows for fall Chinook spawning.
 - a. Is Reclamation responsive to managing these issues?

On Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 10:49 AM John Stadler - NOAA Federal <john.stadler@noaa.gov> wrote:

Hi Maria,

The PFMC Habitat Committee meets in Rohnert Park on April 10 and would like to have an update on the BOR BA for the Central Valley Project. However, we are having trouble finding someone to provide that update. We asked Garwin, but he is too busy. Do you have another staffer that could talk to us?

I think Jennifer needs to turn in the agenda very soon, so please let me know as soon as you can, one way or the other.

Barry will also be speaking to the committee in the morning about shared priorities. If you find someone to speak to us, they could come up early to listen to him.

Thank you,
John

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