

Delta Smelt Working Group Conference Call Minutes

November 28, 2005

Participating: Gonzalo Castillo (USFWS), Mike Chotkowski (USBR), Kevin Fleming (CDFG), Lenny Grimaldo (CDWR), Bruce Herbold (USEPA), Tracy Hinojosa (CDWR), Peter Johnsen (USFWS), Ann Lubas-Williams (USBR), Matt Nobriga (CDWR), Ryan Olah (USFWS) and Victoria Poage (USFWS, convener and scribe)

For Discussion:

1. Prioritize potential WY 2006 fish actions.
2. Discuss potential winter fish action scenarios.
3. Schedule an in-person meeting for later in the week.

Handouts:

1. Winter salvage slides (Mike Chotkowski)
2. Winter salvage slides (Kevin Fleming)

Recommendations for WOMT:

None at this time.

The DSWG prioritized potential WY 2006 fish actions using environmental water from highest to lowest, as follows:

1. winter action to protect adult delta smelt
2. early-spring action to protect larvae
3. spring action to protect larvae and post-larvae
4. late-spring action to protect larvae and post-larvae
5. early-summer action to protect post-larvae and juveniles

It was understood by the DSWG that EWA assets would not be used to support Delta Action 8 in WY 2006; however, b(2) water could be used for DA8. The DSWG believed that use of all available environmental water assets for a winter action would be imprudent, particularly in a dry year, as it would leave virtually no assets to use for the protection of larvae and post-larvae in the spring, should that prove necessary.

Mike Chotkowski and Kevin Fleming provided preliminary analyses to the group via e-mail. In most years, winter salvage occurs as one continuous event spread over time. In wetter years, salvage begins abruptly while in drier years, salvage accumulates more gradually. There appears to be a co-occurrence of flow increases and salvage at the facilities, but not much lead time. It may be that fish are responding to changes in flow; however, reasonable criteria are needed for determining the beginning of a flow change and a salvage event. Kevin's analysis appears to indicate that salvage events occur following combined San Joaquin and Sacramento River flows of about 30,000 cfs. It may be appropriate to devise preliminary recommendations for "wetter" and for "drier" years, with the delineator at 25,000 to 30,000 cfs at Freeport. Further analysis of existing data is needed before recommendations can be made.

Action items:

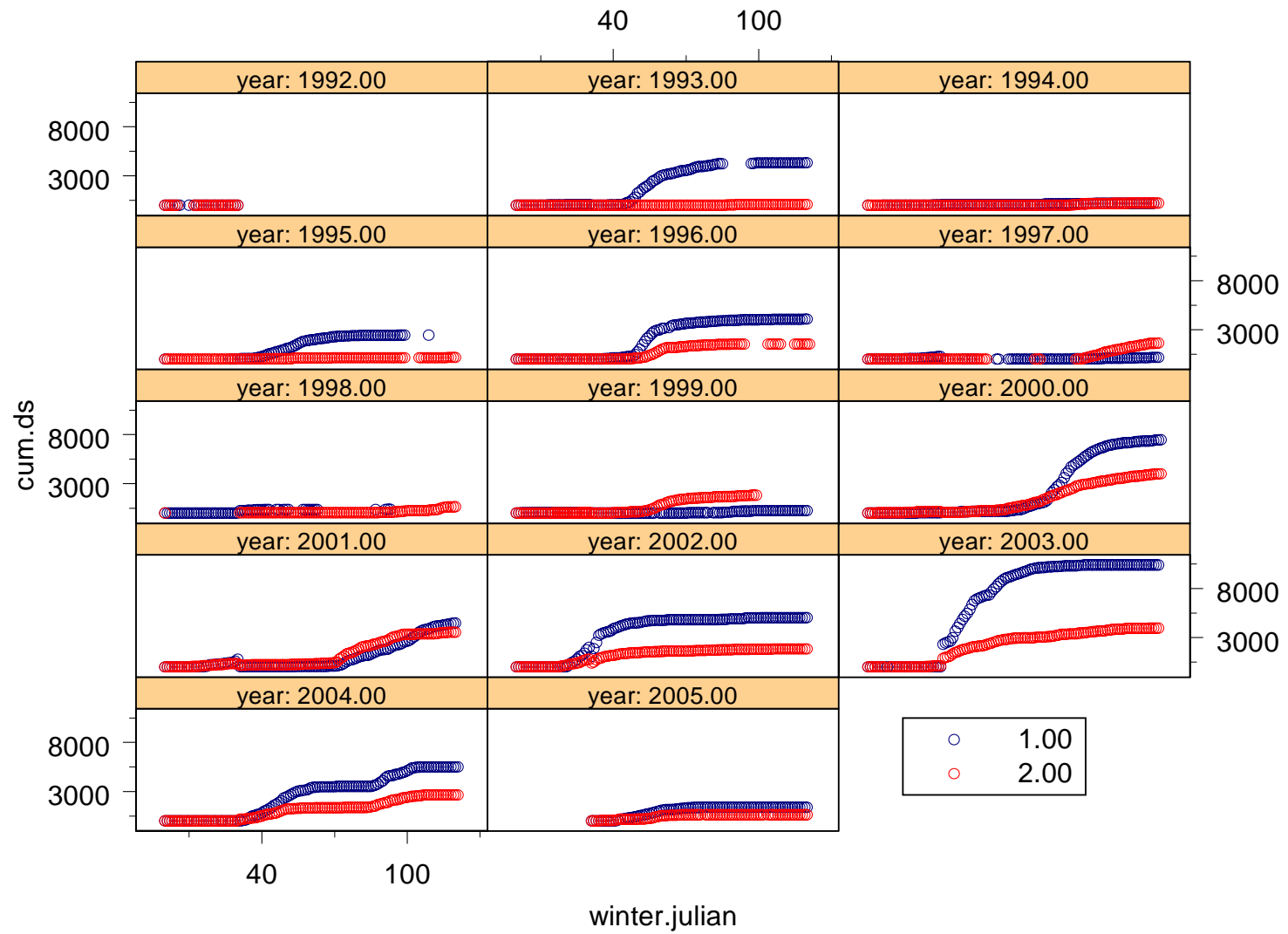
1. Bruce Herbold and Jim White will bring up the use of b(2) water for delta smelt with the b(2) IT and provide feedback to the DSWG.
2. Mike Chotkowski and Kevin Fleming will re-examine the data to attempt to:
 - a. identify appropriate criteria for determining changes in flow and the onset of a salvage event
 - b. find cues in salvage densities
3. Ann Lubas-Williams or Tracy Hinojosa will bring long-range operational forecasts to the next meeting.

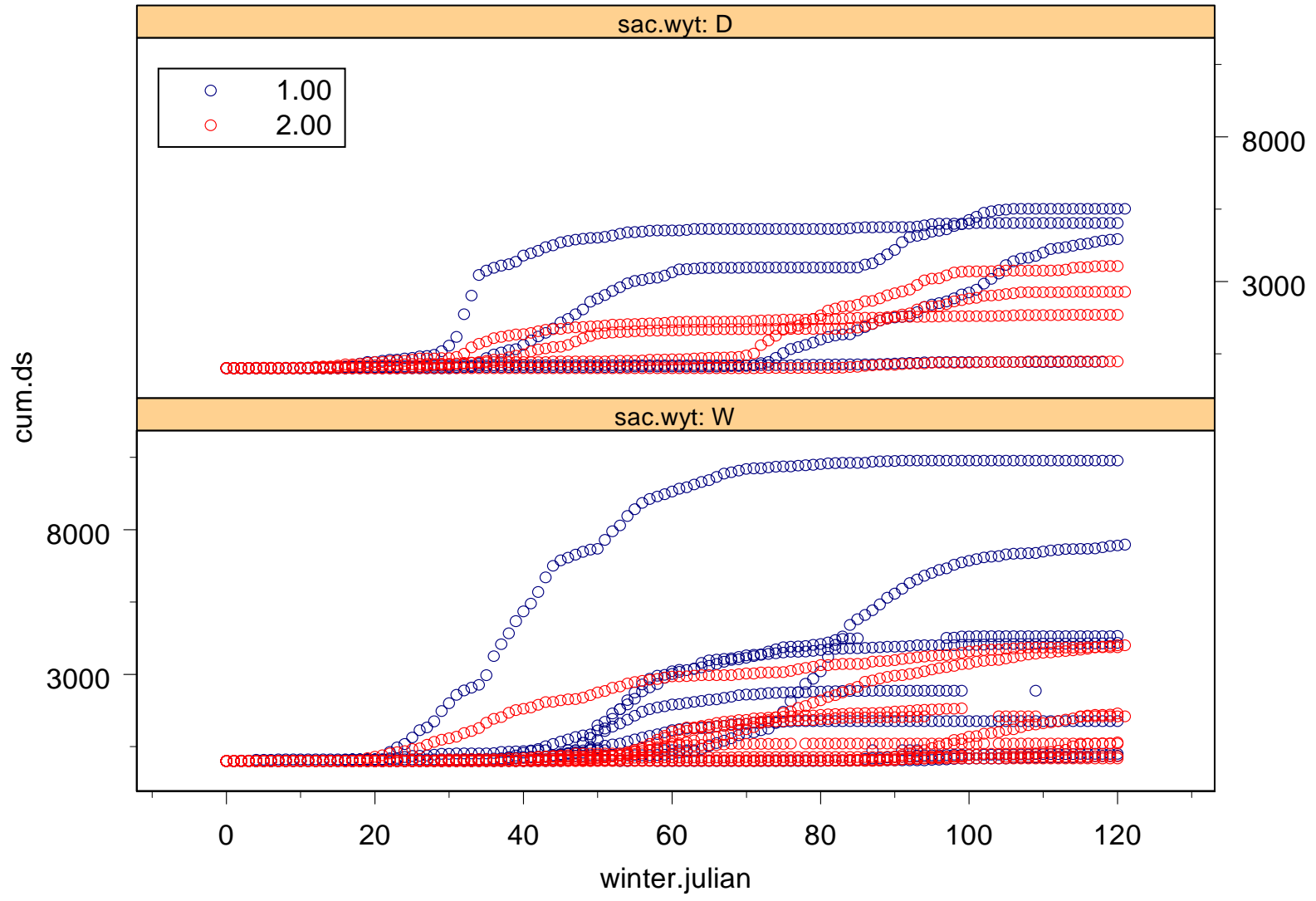
Next meeting:

Monday, December 5, 3:00 pm in the large conference room at DES (subsequently changed to Friday, December 9 at 3:00 pm, same venue).

Attachments: 2

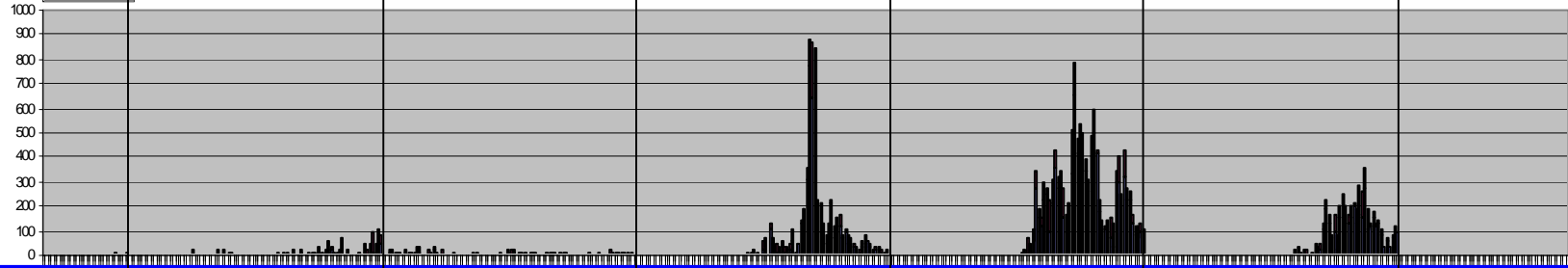
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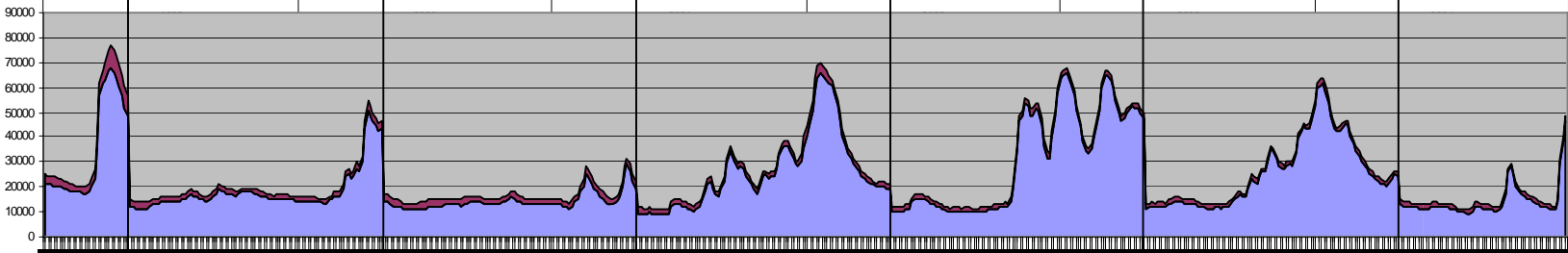


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