

Introduction

- Importance of predation in Delta as related to water project operation.
 - Concern is that CVP and SWP operations increases losses to predators as compared to no project conditions.
 - This increase may be due to changes in Delta hydraulics that either provides predator habitat or longer pathways.

Predation Concerns

- In the legal Delta – ie from Sacramento and Vernalis to Chipps Island.
- Direct losses at project intakes.
- Losses of fish that have been salvaged at the project intakes and returned to the Delta via trucks
- This workshop focuses on direct losses
- There may be additional workshops on the other two predation issues

Planning implications of predation losses at the intakes

- Estimated direct losses to predators are part of calculations that lead to incidental take limits for Chinook salmon.
- Take limits can affect water project operations.
- Although predation losses are not part of the calculations for such fish as Delta smelt and steelhead, there is interest in developing estimates of these losses.

Water Project Planning

- Calculated predator losses are greater for the SWP than for the CVP.
- Difference in losses is due to fish distribution and the presence of the Clifton Court Forebay – 15% for the CVP and 75% for the SWP.
- Planning considerations
 - Change pumping between intakes
 - Modify SWP intake
 - Use of EWA water. The EWA review panel recommended we look into predation issues

Workshop expectations

- Lots of discussion
- With the help of the panel, come out with some ideas on where to go next.
- The information will be given to Calfed and agency managers in the form of written reports and perhaps oral presentations.