

Delta Smelt Scoping Team Meeting (11.19.19)

Attendees: Chuck Hanson, Erin Cole, Larry Brown, Mike Eakin, Pat Coulston, Sam Bashevkin, Sam Luomo, Scott Hamilton, Shaara Ainsley, Shawn Acuna, Yuan Liu

Action Items

- Bruce – share Latour report with Jim Hobbs
- Bruce – incorporate edits to Entrainment Study preface
- All – provide comments on Entrainment Study preface by Nov 27
- Bruce/K&W – consider changing location for future DSST meetings (due to construction noise)

Discussion

- Delta Smelt Conditions Report
 - Overview
 - While a quarterly report would be helpful because of smelt seasonality, annual reporting is probably more realistic given data access issues and non-standardization of data (automated data that's included is only release annually)
 - Annual release suggests including management actions doesn't make sense
 - CAMT is the initial target audience, though the audience could expand down the road
 - Has yet to be determined whether report will be citable and how it will be released (i.e., as a document, webpage with links or interactive online dataset)
 - Comments/Questions
 - Appreciate inclusion of 15 year dataset to see trends
 - Like the idea of releasing a companion opinion piece
 - How does it fit into larger reporting framework?
 - Consider releasing report in February (post trawl)
 - Discussion of Data Sources and Data Presentation
 - If feasible, consider using other data streams that are continuous rather than discrete
 - Work with data providers to formalize schedule of preparing and formatting data prior to receipt
 - Do a first iteration and then consider improvements/changes to data sets
 - Highlights that there's a greater data management issue that needs to be addressed
 - E.g., salvage data naming conventions make it difficult to automate updating process
 - Formatting inconsistencies: e.g., phytoplankton species are inconsistent from year to year
 - Questions for further discussion
 - Are trend lines wanted? It seems like this would be a form of interpretation
 - What temperature data should be used?
- CAMT 2020 Workplan
 - DSST Feedback
 - Developing science to support Delta Smelt SDM could use additional support/work (some tools were developed for rainbow smelt, not Delta smelt)
 - Scoping team needs to discuss next steps regarding Entrainment Study 4
 - Are any scope modifications warranted?

Facilitator Notes, Not Reviewed or Approved by Meeting Participants

- Rather than undertaking new studies, consider taking a step back to review original questions and apply existing tools – e.g., using Compass SDM to help evaluate 2-3 alternative management actions by the second half of 2021
- Technical Reports
 - Study Protocols
 - Concern that independent review might lack a clearly defined objective, audience and/or authoritative weight
 - Instead of independent review, consider independent evaluation of report
 - Concern that reports are being cited outside of scoping team (eg, for permitting) before they're complete and that there's a need to tighten up version control
 - If we plan on conducting two rounds of review, then adequate funding needs to be allocated up front
 - Protocols are needed for initial review of proposal (including expectations around what the review process will include)
 - CAMT Preface
 - Preface would be included inside report (numbered page) and signed by scoping team
 - Confirm which references in the preface can be found in which study (so that if someone goes looking for them they will find them)
 - Describe discussions that came out of report
 - DSST memo to CAMT should include recommendation to adopt – but this should not be included in the report
 - Edits
 - Insert the following language:
 - “these are conclusions the DSST drew from this report and related discussions”
 - “The technical report grew our understanding of x, y, z”
 - Adding behavior has moved us past x models...
 - “In answer to the original management questions...”
 - In first paragraph, it refers to four studies – consider deleting four and just say “series of studies”
- December DSST Meeting
 - Fall Outflow study update
 - DSSP Implementation
 - 2020 Workplan
 - What have we learned?
 - What do we still need to know?
 - What do we want to move forward with?
 - Update on Study 3 + Entrainment 4 conversation
 - Update on manuscripts
 - What are Lenny and Josh proposing to do for study 3?
 - Study 4 relationship to SDM?
 - Study 4 scope modifications?