

Delta Smelt Scoping Team Meeting (3/17/20)

Attendees: Brittany Davis, Brycen Swart, Erica Fleishman, Erin Cole, Erwin Van Nieuwenhuysse, Eva Bush, Larry Brown, Noble Hendricks, Pat Coulston, Sam Luoma, Scott Hamilton, Shawn Acuna, Ted Sommer, Will Smith, Yuan Liu

Action Items

- All – provide feedback on Entrainment Study preface statements by 3/31
- Eva to revise draft Entrainment Studies “Conclusions” and recirculate to DSST requesting DSST responses to the following two questions by 3/31
 - How much progress was made on 2013 questions raised in Study Plan?
 - Are there knowledge gaps that suggest topics for future research?
- All – provide feedback on Retrospective (edits/additions/relevant work citations) by 3/31
- Larry/Bruce – consider whether any of the Retrospective outflow questions are addressed in Float MAST
- Eva – take a stab at language for “first flush” question (#3) in Retrospective

Discussion

1. Fall Outflow Study Hypotheses

- Hypothesis #1: As temperature increases, predation and competition increase → predation and competition as a function of temperature
- Hypothesis #2: Occupancy increases as temperature increases (perhaps constrained by salinity) → occupancy as a function of temperature and salinity + interactions
- Hypothesis #3: Occupancy decreases with predation and turbidity → occupancy as a function of predation and turbidity + interactions
- Questions/Comments
 - What data sets are you using?
 - Fall mid-water trawl
 - I believe there’s a parallel effort underway with a different data set
 - Plan is to work on occupancy models first and then will shift over to abundance modeling

2. Entrainment Studies

- Update on study reports
 - Circulated preface statements – provide context for two reports
 - Sent Lenny feedback on executive summary and requested an update on Entrainment Study 3 - no response as of yet
- Draft “Conclusions” memo
 - Eva drafted a “Conclusion” memo based on Study 2 material sent by Bruce
 - One of the CAMT conclusions was “Entrainment has declined”, did not find this in study
 - Pete Smith evidence, one year in later time period (2011)
 - Questions for DSST:
 - Were the questions laid out in original proposal/study plan addressed? (specify questions) vs Were the questions adequately addressed?
 - Science vs Proposal/Scope vs Study Plan
 - Independent review already provided comments re: proposal/scope, suggests that question we’re trying to answer is whether the science has been addressed
 - Leave question above and Eva’s draft language as is and only soliciting input on the following two questions

- How much progress was made on 2013 questions raised in Study Plan? (replaces: What reservations do you have regarding analyses conducted?)
 - Are there knowledge gaps that suggest topics for future research?
- Questions/Comments
 - First part of draft Conclusions does a good job of capturing lessons learned from modeling
 - Consider expanding section on proportional entrainment
 - How will “Conclusions” connect to report?
 - One possibility is this would be a memo from the Scoping Team to CSAMP
 - Was under the impression that this would be connected and not a standalone document
 - Once we determine what we want to say, we can tackle whether/how to embed it
 - Supportive of having Delta Science Program involvement
 - Concerned that remaining questions will be difficult for Eva to answer/compile from group’s input and aren’t framed constructively (e.g., “adequately” is a problematic adjective)
 - Seems like there’s value in providing DSST’s evaluation of the studies
 - Fine to provide evaluation as a report/presentation to CAMT but no precedent in scientific literature to publish evaluation as part of report
 - Unlike a journal, we don’t have the opportunity to keep sending the study back until we’re satisfied with it so it would be appropriate to include evaluation with report
 - Assumption is that CAMT expects an evaluation, but agree that the evaluation should remain separate (not jointly published)
 - Should be part of report but not part of manuscript
 - Train has left the station for BiOp and ITP – analysis has already been incorporated. This needs to be wrapped up.

3. Status of Delta Smelt Science

- Comments on Float MAST presentation to CAMT
 - Going forward topics would be reported on throughout the year as data becomes available + annual integrated report
 - Concerned that data might be released “early” (people may draw conclusions prematurely)
 - Getting data out via presentations to CSAMP/CAMT as part of DSST could be a way of getting info out without setting things in stone
 - Consider how Float MAST interacts with DSSP (e.g., quarterly reporting)
- CAMT Retrospective Report Card
 - Regarding “first flush” question (#3) – consider looking at Lenny’s 2x2 matrix that references first flush in terms of salvage
 - Difficulty is in defining “first flush” beyond identifying it in hindsight
 - Make clear that this is not a comprehensive review but rather a CSAMP focused performance review
 - Consider adding citations to external literature where it’s known
 - Or add another column with sources of information outside of CSAMP
- Review and update management questions
 - Need more discussion on reviewing/evaluating questions to determine use/process
- DSSP Implementation
 - Brittany and Brycen will be integrating DSSP recommendations and Pat’s observations

Facilitator Notes, Not Reviewed or Approved by Meeting Participants

(and removing redundancies) in tracking sheet towards developing an action plan