
From: Maria Rea - NOAA Federal <maria.rea@noaa.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2018 8:25 AM
To: Federico Barajas
Cc: Barry Thom - NOAA Federal
Subject: Fwd: 8/9/2018 updates on ROC on LTO
Attachments: ATT00001.html; ROC on LTO GANTT chart for 08-2019 completion.pdf

Hi Federico,
Barry and I received this email update from Garwin last night and I wanted to check with you for accuracy. Feel free to call me on cell anytime.

- Maria

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Garwin Yip - NOAA Federal <garwin.yip@noaa.gov>
Date: August 9, 2018 at 6:02:08 PM EDT
To: Barry Thom <Barry.Thom@noaa.gov>, "'Maria.rea@noaa.gov" <Maria.rea@noaa.gov>
Cc: Howard Brown <Howard.Brown@noaa.gov>, Jeff McLain <Jeff.McLain@noaa.gov>, Barbara Byrne <Barbara.Byrne@noaa.gov>
Subject: 8/9/2018 updates on ROC on LTO

Barry and Maria,

The ROC on LTO core team didn't officially meet in the last week. However, we did have a core team "ROC the boat" tour of the Delta on 8/7/2018 where we had a brief discussion, summarized below:

- The ETA for a revised draft EA that incorporates comments received won't be until the latter part of August (which corrects my earlier ETA).

- I asked and received confirmation that there are no disagreements within the ROC on LTO core team.

- Reclamation heard scuttlebutt in Washington D.C. about an August 2019 "deadline" to complete the ROC on LTO consultation, so Katrina Harrison (Reclamation-BDO ROC on LTO lead) distributed a GANTT chart reflecting that date (see attached). Within that GANTT chart:

 - ++ the agencies' opportunity to review and comment on the administrative draft BA is 12/20/2018-1/2/2019!

 - ++ the USFWS and NMFS has 135 days from the request to initiate formal consultation to issue biological opinions.

 - ++ peer review of the draft biological opinion has been removed.

In addition, through the "rumor mill" this morning (Dave Mooney called Kaylee Allen, who told Jana Affonso, who called me), Jana told me that:

- Reclamation will no longer be coordinating with the fish agencies on the ROC on LTO [she wasn't sure whether that was the re-operation (formerly track 3) or whether that also included the initial actions (track 1)].

- Reclamation will be working with DWR and the water contractors (both state and Federal) to develop the proposed action.

-- Reclamation will be pursuing the August 2019 date to complete the section 7 consultation on ROC on LTO.

-- Dave Mooney will be calling Maria to discuss the above.

-Garwin-

Garwin Yip

Water Operations and Delta Consultations Branch Chief

NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region

U.S. Department of Commerce

California Central Valley Office

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100

Sacramento, CA 95814

Office: 916-930-3611

Cell: 916-716-6558

FAX: 916-930-3629

www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Garwin Yip - NOAA Federal** <garwin.yip@noaa.gov>

Date: Thu, Aug 2, 2018 at 10:24 AM

Subject: Re: Updates on ROC on LTO

To: Barry Thom <Barry.Thom@noaa.gov>, "Maria.rea@noaa.gov" <Maria.rea@noaa.gov>

Cc: Howard Brown <Howard.Brown@noaa.gov>, Barbara Byrne <Barbara.Byrne@noaa.gov>

One more comment that I forgot to include last night that I mentioned at multiple core team meetings. Reclamation and DWR have been coordinating throughout the development of Reclamation's initial actions. However, despite the coordination, DWR has not indicated that their management is in agreement and/or on board with any of the actions, especially those associated with WIIN Act implementation (1:1 transfers on top of the I:E ratio and OMR storm flexibility).

To explicitly respond to the question that Maria posed to me, there have not been any disagreements within the core team regarding the multitude of comments that the fish agencies provided on the interim actions. Reclamation representatives on the core team understand our comments, and to a large extent, agree with them.

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 1, 2018, at 11:48 PM, Garwin Yip - NOAA Federal <garwin.yip@noaa.gov> wrote:

Barry and Maria,

The last ROC on LTO core team meeting was on July 12.

NMFS submitted comments on the initial actions environmental assessment on July 16.

During the July 20 Directors' meeting, Maria walked through NMFS' alternatives to the I:E ratio, but also mentioned that we were hoping the initial actions would be limited to truly low-hanging fruit, for example, !:! transfers on top of the I:E ratio, and an OMR storm flexibility proposal that includes "more" details and sideboards. Then we can spend more time and focus on developing the proposed action for "track 3."

On July 25, Reclamation convened an initial actions analysis meeting that included stakeholders, in order to "learn what additional representations of data or modeling results stakeholders and agencies would be interested / need to see in order to assess water supply and fisheries impacts." During the meeting, Katrina Harrison [Reclamation-Bay Delta Office (BDO) ROC on LTO lead] mentioned that the number and description of Reclamation's interim actions was pretty set. I reiterated some of the higher elevation, red flag, comments that were submitted, including:

- the uncertainty that many of the proposed interim action will meet the "no additional adverse effects" threshold that Reclamation was striving for, or conversely, equally or more protective than the RPA actions they were intended to replace;
- OMR Flow Management Action IV.2.3 was not explicitly intended to protect against population effects;
- need for more details in some of the initial actions, for example, OMR storm flexibility; and
- absence of definitive science should not be the reason to propose actions more aggressive towards water supply.

Also on July 25, I met with Katrina and other Reclamation-BDO staff to walk through each of NMFS' alternatives to the I:E ratio, answer questions, and to ensure Reclamation understands each of them. I reiterated to Katrina that Reclamation should propose initial actions that would be limited to truly low-hanging fruit, for example, !:! transfers on top of the I:E ratio, an OMR storm flexibility proposal that includes "more" details and sideboards, and maybe OMR index.

Next steps: Reclamation indicated that:

- a revised EA, incorporating or addressing all comments would be distributed on July 27 or 30 (I haven't seen it yet).
- they would reconvene the technical teams to help identify the newer and best available science supporting the interim actions (none scheduled yet).

-Garwin-

Garwin Yip

Water Operations and Delta Consultations Branch Chief
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
U.S. Department of Commerce
California Central Valley Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
Office: 916-930-3611
Cell: 916-716-6558

FAX: 916-930-3629

www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov

