

Delta Smelt Working Group Meeting Notes

April 09, 2007

Participating: Mike Chotkowski (USBR), Kevin Fleming (CDFG), Lenny Grimaldo (CDWR), Bruce Herbold (EPA), Tracy Hinojosa (CDWR), Ann Lubas-Williams (USBR), Victoria Poage (USFWS, scribe), Jim White (CDFG), and Peter Johnsen (USFWS, convener)

For Discussion:

1. Latest survey data
2. Delta conditions
3. Action to protect delta smelt larvae

Recommendation for WOMT:

To minimize diversion of delta smelt larvae into the Central Delta and to the water export facilities, the Working Group recommends keeping Old River and Middle River combined 5-day average flows no more negative than -5,000 cfs.

Meeting Notes:

1. Survey 3 of the 20-mm Survey began today; there are as yet no results to report. Survey 4 of the spring Kodiak Trawl Survey was conducted last week. Ninety-four delta smelt were collected, 78 of which were collected at station 719 in the Deep Water Ship Channel. Of the 60 females collected, 17 were mature or functionally mature, with the remainder (n=43) being stage two or three. The Working Group noted that the survey collected no spent females. Previous years are compared below for roughly the same time period:

Year	CLC Range	N	Females by Stage	Males by Stage
2007 Survey 4 (4/2 – 4/5)	18.4 – 19.2	94; 33 M, 60 F, 1 U	2: 23 (38.3%) 3: 20 (33.3%) 4: 16 (26.8%) 5: 1 (1.7%) 6: 0	2: 0 3: 19 (57.6%) 4: 5 (15.2%) 5: 5 (15.2%) 6: 4 (12.1%)
2006 Survey 4 (4/10 – 4/14)	14.7 – 15.5	77; 29 M, 48 F	2: 1 (2.1%) 3: 10 (20.8%) 4: 19 (39.6%) 5: 1 (2.1%) 6: 17 (35.4%)	2: 0 3: 0 4: 2 (6.9%) 5: 14 (48.3%) 6: 13 (44.8%)
2005 Survey 4 (4/18 – 4/21)	15.9 – 16.4	18; 4 M, 14 F	2: 0 3: 1 (7.1%) 4: 11 (78.6%) 6: 2 (14.3%)	2: 0 3: 0 4: 2 (50%) 5: 2 (50%) 6: 0

Year	CLC Range	N	Females by Stage	Males by Stage
2004 Survey 4 (4/5 – 4/8)	16.8 – 18.2	62; 7 M, 55 F	2: 0 3: 22 (40%) 4: 20 (36.4%) 6: 13 (23.6%)	2: 0 3: 0 4: 4 (57.1%) 5: 1 (14.3%) 6: 2 (28.6%)

2. The San Joaquin Valley is so dry that VAMP flows at Vernalis may be only 2,000 cfs. While this was not previously considered by the Working Group in the particle tracking modeling, if combined exports can still be assumed to be 1,500 cfs, then Old and Middle River (OMR) flows should be near zero cfs and delta smelt larval entrainment should remain as expected.

3. Because it appears that delta smelt are continuing to spawn and concern for larval entrainment is high, the Working Group recommended continuing the moderation of OMR flows to no more negative than -5,000 cfs. The Projects' controlling objective switched toward the end of last week from the 3-day E/I to the OMR 5-day target, so some EWA costs (very roughly estimated at 1-2 TAF per day) are currently being accrued.

Next meeting: Monday, April 23 at 3:00 pm via conference call.

Submitted,
VLP