

Delta Smelt Working Group Meeting Notes

July 2, 2007

Participating: Julio Adib-Samii (CDFG), Gonzalo Castillo (USFWS), Mike Chotkowski (USBR), Fred Feyrer (CDWR), Erin Gleason (CDFG), Lenny Grimaldo (CDWR), Bruce Herbold (USEPA), Tracy Hinojosa (CDWR), Peter Johnsen (USFWS), Ryan Olah (USFWS), Ann Lubas-Williams (USBR), Jim White (CDFG) and Victoria Poage (USFWS, convener and scribe)

For Discussion:

1. Update on current conditions and survey data
2. Continued delta smelt salvage

Recommendation for WOMT: The Delta Smelt Working Group remained concerned regarding the continued salvage of delta smelt at the export facilities. The Working Group reviewed all available information on delta smelt salvage, monitoring, and Delta conditions and recommended that the Projects moderate operations to achieve a net upstream flow in Old and Middle River no greater than 5000 cfs. The group will reconvene on Friday July 6th to reevaluate the situation.

1. The second week of the Summer Tow-Net Survey concluded last week. A total of ten delta smelt were collected, nine from station 704 (Sherman Lake) and one from station 602 (Grizzly Bay). The Sherman Lake fish ranged in length from 23-32 mm and the Grizzly Bay fish was 46 mm in length. Survey 9 of the 20-mm Survey began today; south Delta stations were sampled first. Most of the stations from survey 8 have been sorted and the total number of delta smelt collected has risen to 60 fish, ranging in length from 17-52 mm and averaging 32 mm. Most were collected at station 706. There are a few tows still to be sorted, but all stations have had at least one tow sorted.

Date	SWP Salvage	SWP Salvage Density*	CVP Salvage	CVP Salvage Density	Combined Salvage	Cumulative Salvage	OMR(cfs)
6/21/07	30	16.23377	0	0	30	1046	-1895
6/22/07	57	30.77754	0	0	57	1103	-3360
6/23/07	15	8.004269	0	0	15	1118	-4750
6/24/07	24	20.61856	0	0	24	1142	-4750
6/25/07	0	0	0	0	0	1142	-4940
6/26/07	30	46.72897	0	0	30	1172	-5330
6/27/07	327	194.5271	0	0	327	1499	-5270
6/28/07	30	17.67826	0	0	30	1529	-5280
6/29/07	78	44.77612	0	0	78	1607	-5130
6/30/07	390	144.5515	0	0	390	1997	
7/1/07	246	23.39515	12	1.540832	258	2255	

*during the call it was reported that the SWP salvaged 311 delta smelt on July 2

3. Relatively consistent salvage densities combined with the sharp increase in export level and increased upstream Old and Middle River flows suggest that the SWP is salvaging delta smelt recently entrained into Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) in addition to delta smelt which may have been residing in CCF for extended periods. Over the last week, salvage density has ranged from a low of zero to a high of 194.5 at the SWP. While there appears to be a great deal of variance, SWP salvage density has not exhibited an overall decline, as it would if delta smelt in the Forebay were not being replaced by newly entrained fish. It may be that, similar to survey results, densities are so low that trends cannot be reliably discerned. The SWP has observed that salvage appears to increase when export pumping occurs during non-daylight hours; it is also possible that tidal cycle is a factor. However, net upstream flows at Old and Middle Rivers has also increased and was predicted to be over 8000 cfs today (July 2). With X2 presently at about 85 km, even if delta smelt are not being drawn all the way to the pumps, they may be drawn into areas of less hospitable habitat with warmer water temperatures.

The Working Group requested that DWR perform PTM runs for the purposes of estimating the footprint of entrainment and gauging the level of exports that would fail to entrain delta smelt at or near the confluence. The Working Group requested two sets of runs:

- o a back-cast from June 19, using current hydrology and the presently-expected level of exports, using injection points at stations 704, 804 and 809
- o a back-cast from June 19, using current hydrology and a level of exports approximating -5000 cfs combined OMR flow, using injection points at stations 704, 804 and 809

Because of concerns with salvage, the Working Group recommended that the Projects moderate operations to achieve a net upstream flow in Old and Middle River no greater than 5000 cfs. This would continue until the Working Group has a chance to review and discuss the requested PTM runs.

Next meeting: Friday, July 6 at 11:00 am via conference call.

Submitted,

VLP