

Delta Smelt Working Group Conference Call Minutes

February 3, 2005

Participating: Ryan Olah (USFWS), Bruce Herbold (USEPA), Kevin Fleming (DFG), Tracy Pettit (DWR), John Leahigh (DWR), Mike Chotkowski (USBR), Victoria Poage (USFWS), Jim White (DFG)

The Delta Smelt Working Group met via conference call on February 3 to discuss the current export reduction and if it should continue.

Current action taken by WOMT:

The WOMT group on 1/28/05 considered the working group's recommendation of combined exports of 1500 cfs for one week and initiated a combined export level of 3000 cfs beginning on 2/2 for one week, with daily evaluation of delta smelt salvage.

Current delta smelt status:

Over the past three days smelt densities were falling, and had a small increase on Feb 2 that may have been an artifact of the lower pumping.

| Date | Combined delta smelt Salvage | Combined Salvage Density | Combined Pumping (AF) |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1/29/05 | 96 | 4.04 | 23782 |
| 1/30/05 | 120 | 5.04 | 23799 |
| 1/31/05 | 60 | 2.5 | 23996 |
| 2/1/05 | 27 | 1.26 | 21419 |
| 2/2/05 | 21 | 2.66 | 7898 |

The Spring Kodiak Trawl survey 1 was completed and the observed distribution is typical for the first survey of the study, most smelt have not moved into the interior delta. The size of sampled smelt appears to be similar to previous years.

Recommendation for WOMT:

Since it appears that the peak of salvage of fish has passed, the working group recommends that export pumping continue at the reduced rate for one more day (Feb 4) and then be ramped up to baseline conditions on Monday (Feb 7). The recommended ramping rate would be to about 3000 cfs (combined exports) on Feb 4, 5000 cfs on Feb 5, 7000 cfs on Feb 6, and back to baseline pumping (expected to be about 10,000 cfs) on Feb 7.

WOMT action:

WOMT agreed to implement the recommended action. Due to energy scheduling issues, the CVP will continue pumping at a reduced rate until Feb 7, when they will be back up to baseline. SWP will do the ramping on Feb 5-6 and will be up to baseline on Feb 7.