

Delta Smelt Working Group Meeting/Conference Call Minutes

February 27, 2006

Participating: Mike Dege (CDFG), Tracy Hinojosa (CDWR), Ann Lubas-Williams (USBR), Matt Nobriga (CDWR), Ryan Olah (USFWS), Jim White (CDFG) and Victoria Poage (USFWS, convener and scribe)

For Discussion:

1. current conditions/current operations
2. current monitoring data
3. action items from last meeting

Recommendation for WOMT:

Because reservoir releases are expected to increase, SWP exports are expected to decrease, no adult salvage has been reported and no delta smelt larvae have been collected, the Working Group has no recommendation for WOMT for this week.

1. Recent rains have prompted the Projects to schedule increased upstream reservoir releases. The CVP expects to resume filling its share of San Luis Reservoir as SWP pumping declines to about 2500 cfs, to facilitate the exchange of the surcharged water with the Bureau. The three-day E/I ratio is 25.1 % today and is expected to decline significantly over the next week as outflow increases.
2. The Supplemental Spring Kodiak Trawl (survey 12) began today. Four stations in the ship channel were sampled, and 108 delta smelt were collected. Of these, more were female than male. Delta water temperatures are ranging from 11.6 to 11.8°C; the three-station average was 11.5°C yesterday. Tuesday CDFG crews will sample the Napa River. The next full SKT begins March 13. Results are in from the Delta Smelt Larval Survey through Survey 2, field sampling completed January 27; no delta smelt larvae were collected. Staff is presently processing samples from Survey 3, field sampling completed February 10. The next Larval Survey is scheduled to begin March 6. The 20-mm Survey will begin March 20 and will be conducted in conjunction with the Larval Survey.
3. Last week, the Working Group recommended that the VAMP include the implementation of 7000 cfs flows on the San Joaquin and 1500 cfs combined Project exports. After discussion by the WOMT, it is apparent that there will be neither willing sellers on the SJR nor funding available to purchase the amount of water needed to provide 7000 cfs.

Discussion of concern triggers was not completed. It was suggested that a significant upward change in water temperatures (e.g., of at least two degrees within a week period) would be a good indicator of the onset of spawning. The Working Group would then discuss potential recommendations to follow after about a two-week interval, assuming that hatching could range from 8-15 days, depending upon water temperatures. As was done last year, the Working Group may request additional PTM runs for the pre-VAMP

period; however, it may be that the appropriate modeling has already been done. The Working Group will continue to monitor Delta conditions and survey sampling results and use the best available data if concerns are triggered.

Action Items:

1. All will give further thought to concern triggers and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

Next Scheduled Conference Call: Monday, March 13 at 3:00 pm.

Submitted,
VLP