

Delta Smelt Working Group Meeting/Conference Call Minutes

January 23, 2006

Participating: Mike Chotkowski (USBR), Lenny Grimaldo (CDWR), Bruce Herbold (USEPA), Tracy Hinojosa (CDWR), Michael Mierzwa (CDWR, guest), Ryan Olah (USFWS), Kevin Sun (CDWR, guest), Jim White (CDFG) and Victoria Poage (USFWS, convener and scribe)

For Discussion:

1. Current data from Spring Kodiak Trawl
2. Spring HORB
3. Clifton Court Forebay gate operations
4. Status of current recommendation

Recommendation for WOMT:

No changes to the Working Group's earlier recommendation for implementation of a 15% E/I.

1. No staff from CDFG Bay-Delta were available to discuss the status/progress of the Spring Kodiak Trawl.
2. It was noted that the VAMP Technical Group has called a meeting for February 2 and requested that delta smelt biologists be present to discuss potential recommendations for South Delta barrier configurations. The Working Group requested that DWR run the following Particle Tracking Model scenarios, both with and without the Head-of-Old-River Barrier:

Exports	SJR Flow
1500 cfs	3000 cfs
1500 cfs	7000 cfs
7000 cfs	7000 cfs

- injection points at 815, 902 and 910 and at SJR at Vernalis,
- 75% exceedence hydrology,
- ag barriers in or out, with HORB,
- open three culverts on the HORB,
- run from April 15 until May 15 (31 days)

As in previous PTM studies, the Working Group will use a 30% difference in particle fate as the significance level. DWR believes that they can deliver model results in time for the VAMP Technical Meeting. Victoria Poage and Bruce Herbold will attend and share the PTM results with the VAMP group.

3. Tracy Hinojosa and Michael Mierzwa lead a discussion of Clifton Court Forebay operations modeling to the Working Group. They recommended that the modeling reflect "real-world" conditions in that rather than having the gates remain open around the clock, the gates would be adjusted to achieve a particular flow (e.g., a lower flow for a longer time), based on DWR's three operations priorities (see attachment). Because of restrictions under the three priorities, exports would need to be lower overall. Modeling

can reflect velocities at specified channel locations. The Working Group requested that this work be done after the initial PTM for the HORB is completed.

4. For the time being, the Working Group will let stand its recommendation of December 16, 2005 for a precautionary implementation of a 15% export-to-inflow ratio, to extend through January (see the Working Group notes for December 16, 2005 and the Briefing Statement dated December 23, 2005). The E/I ratio is expected to reach 15% about January 30; the Working Group is scheduled to meet on that date and will have data from the Spring Kodiak Trawl to discuss at that time. The Working Group will continue to monitor real-time data and use the DSRAM to guide the recommendation process.

Action Items:

1. Bruce Herbold and Victoria Poage will meet with the VAMP Technical Group and share PTM results.
2. DWR staff will begin work on the requested PTM studies.

Next Conference Call: Monday, January 30 at 3:00 pm.

One attachment

Submitted,
VLP

Attachment 1. Clifton Court Forebay gate operations.

