Delta Smelt Working Group Meeting/Conference Call Minutes

January 31, 2006

Participating: Gonzalo Castillo (USFWS), Kevin Fleming (CDFG), Lenny Grimaldo (CDWR), Bruce Herbold (USEPA), Tracy Hinojosa (CDWR), Ann Lubas-Williams (USBR), Matt Nobriga (CDWR), Ryan Olah (USFWS), Kevin Sun (CDWR, guest), Jim White (CDFG) and Victoria Poage (USFWS, convener and scribe)

For Discussion:
1. PTM results for spring HORB
2. PTM for Clifton Court Forebay operations
3. Real-time monitoring data
4. Status of current recommendation

Recommendation for WOMT:
The Working Group could not reach consensus on extending the precautionary 15% export-to-inflow ratio for an additional week. The Working Group is continuing discussion via e-mail to resolve the issue.

1. 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)

Because a 75% exceedence hydrology had not been developed, DWR modeling staff used the 50% hydrology for the higher (7000 cfs) flows on the San Joaquin River and the 90% hydrology for the lower (3000 cfs) flows. As with last year's PTM, the Working Group specified a 30% difference in particle fate as the significance criterion. Results for May 15 are summarized in the table below:

	Flows/Exports	With Barriers	Without Barriers
Insertion Point		Percent of particles arriving at Chipps Island	
VNS	7000/7000	13.1	3.2
	7000/1500	60.0	41.7
	3000/1500	1.4	0
815	7000/7000	65.0	70.1
	7000/1500	94.4	96.5
	3000/1500	47.4	47.9
902	7000/7000	5.2	11.9
	7000/1500	40.6	88.8

	3000/1500	19.1	35.3
910	7000/7000	11.5	13.2
	7000/1500	60.1	79.5
	3000/1500	7.6	3.7

From the data it appears that the most important factor for entrainment risk was proximity to the export pumps, which has been the conclusion reached in previous studies. Differences were apparent, particularly for stations in the central Delta. Effect of barrier installation under any scenario was not as great as the effect of hydrology. The preliminary recommendation therefore is that the first priority should be placed on high flows on the San Joaquin River (7000 cfs) and low exports at the facilities (1500 cfs) and that not installing the barriers is recommended, but of lower priority than hydrology.

2. The Working Group requested modeling of modified gate operations at Clifton Court Forebay. DWR modelers will use the projected VAMP hydrology and select about a half-dozen injection points between Frank's Tract and CCF and another half-dozen injection points in Old River upstream of CCF. The Working Group's request will be queued behind a previous request, so delivery of results may not occur for a couple of weeks. DWR operators have indicated that any requested changes could be implemented on very short notice.

3. The Projects will be required to meet the Port Chicago X2 standard for 27 days in February, and the E/I ratio will likely remain at or near 15% for the next week. Kevin Fleming presented preliminary data from the first supplemental Kodiak Trawl survey, which began yesterday.

4. The Working Group briefly discussed current Project operations (Victoria Poage noted that the 3-day E/I ratio was currently about 11%) but was unable to achieve consensus as to whether or not the Projects should continue operating to 15% E/I or less for the next week. The Working Group will continue to monitor real-time and survey data and will resume the discussion as conditions warrant.

Action Items:
1. Bruce Herbold, Victoria Poage and Kevin Fleming will meet with the VAMP Technical Group and share PTM results.
2. DWR staff will begin work on the CCF PTM studies when time permits.

Next Conference Call: Monday, February 6 at 3:00 pm.

Submitted,
VLP