

Delta Smelt Working Group Meeting/Conference Call Minutes

March 13, 2006

Participating: Gonzalo Castillo (USFWS), Mike Chotkowski (USBR), Kevin Fleming (CDFG), Lenny Grimaldo (CDWR), Tracy Hinojosa (CDWR), Ann Lubas-Williams (USBR), Matt Nobriga (CDWR), Jim White (CDFG) and Victoria Poage (USFWS, convener and scribe)

For Discussion:

1. Incidental take by the Projects
2. Ongoing discussion of VAMP recommendation

Recommendation for WOMT:

The Working Group did not have a recommendation for WOMT for this week. The Working Group will continue to monitor for indications that spawning has begun.

1. Cumulative salvage reached 228 adult delta smelt taken at the export facilities since December 1. The SWP continues to operate at 2000-2500 cfs to reduce their surcharge into the CVP share of San Luis Reservoir while the CVP continues to pump at capacity. The 3-day export-to-inflow (E/I) ratio is presently at about 5%. Survey 3 of the Spring Kodiak Trawl will not begin until Tuesday, but will begin sampling in the south Delta and move progressively north and west over the week. CDFG staff will post data to the website as it becomes available. A moderate storm is expected Tuesday and another for the weekend. As conditions in the Delta are expected to remain relatively wet for the near future, the Working Group did not recommend any changes to Project operations for this week.
2. Any recommendation for a pre-VAMP shoulder will depend on Delta conditions and survey sampling results. The San Joaquin River Group believes that there will be enough flow on the San Joaquin (>5000 cfs) to preclude the installation of a Head-of-Old River barrier during the VAMP. The Working Group will continue to monitor Delta conditions and survey sampling results for (a) adult distribution, (b) the presence of spent adults, and (c) sharp increases in Delta water temperatures that indicate that spawning may have begun. Lenny Grimaldo will look at historic Egg and Larval Survey data and 20-mm data vs X2 position to try and predict where in the system larval delta smelt may occur, but these analyses will likely not be completed in time to be of use this year. In the meantime, the Working Group's preliminary VAMP recommendation for 7000 cfs SJR flow and 1500 exports still stands.

Action Items:

1. Victoria Poage will follow up on the ag barriers.

Next Scheduled Conference Call: As needed; the regular Monday call time remains reserved.

Submitted,
VLP