

Smelt Working Group July 7, 2008

Recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Service

Each member of the Smelt Working Group independently reviewed current information on Delta water temperatures, recent salvage data, the latest survey results, and other information available. Based on this information, the Smelt Working Group members agreed via electronic mail communication that the level of concern for delta smelt is now low and that it was no need to meet. The Working Group also agreed to discontinue our recommendation to maintain an OMR of or less negative than negative 2,000 cfs. We based this on increasing Delta water temperatures, low number of delta smelt salvaged with zero salvaged the last three days, and data from the most recent 20-mm trawl completed on June 27, 2008, that shows delta smelt distribution to be at the confluence down to Chipps Island. No delta smelt were sampled in lower San Joaquin River or within Old or Middle Rivers. However, the Working Group did notice that export has increased with subsequent USGS measured 7-day average OMR flows towards the pumps increasing to about negative 4,500 cfs on July 5. OMR flow towards the pumps is currently estimated to about negative 5,500 cfs. Further, QWEST became negative as of July 1. With the current easterly X2 at about 85 km, a negative QWEST may be of concern. The Working Group will continue to monitor the situation and convene if data suggest that the delta smelt becomes further adversely affected by Delta water exports.