

Determination of Actions Required Under Component 2 of the 2008 OCAP Biological Opinion
June 1, 2010

The Service has determined that OMR flows be no more negative than -5,000 cfs on a 14-day average (no more negative than -6,250 cfs on a 5-day average), as allowed under the RPA.

The Service received a recommendation from the Smelt Working Group (SWG) to modify operations to achieve OMR flows of no more negative than -2,000. SWG cautioned that juvenile take may be substantial given current conditions. Recognizing uncertainty about potential timing and magnitude of salvage and the desire to maintain flexibility for water supplies, the Service does not recommend operational changes at this time. We will take this SWG recommendation under advisement and continue to monitor salvage rates in the coming days.

The juvenile protective phase of the biological opinion (RPA Component 2; Action 3 in Attachment B) is in effect. This action will continue until June 30 or when the 3-day mean water temperature at Clifton Court Forebay reaches 25°C, whichever occurs earlier.

Cumulative expanded salvage of larvae is currently at 23 for the season.

The Working Group will continue to monitor salvage, survey data, and hydrological conditions and will reconvene on June 7.