



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

In reply refer to:

January 4, 2013

Subject: Determination of Actions Required Under Component 1 of the 2008 OCAP Biological Opinion

The Service has determined that OMR flows be no more negative than -3500 cfs, based on a 14-day running average with simultaneous 5-day running average within 25% of -3500 cfs. An OMR flow of -3500 cfs is within the range of allowable net daily OMR flows for Action 2, which is -1250 to -5000 cfs.

The Service's determination is based upon a review of current south and central Delta turbidity data and turbidity prediction model results. Daily turbidities at stations in the south and central Delta are below 12 NTU, and have been falling since the beginning of the week. The available turbidity forecast models indicate that turbidity in the south and central Delta will continue to decline over the next two weeks. Additionally, daily salvage of adult delta smelt remains low after Action 1 was implemented on December 17, 2012. Taking these facts together, the Service believes Action 1 provided protection from entrainment and adverse migratory cues that might have arisen in its absence, and that a -3500 cfs OMR at this time provides adequate protection from entrainment.

The Service continues to collaborate with its State and Federal partners and stakeholders on the development of an adaptive management-based investigation of tools and approaches to manage water operations and turbidity in order to control delta smelt take. While the specific study plan to test turbidity modeling tools is not yet complete, the Service believes this adjustment to operations is consistent with the direction the plan is taking, and will facilitate scientific learning going forward.