

Smelt Working Group  
June 19, 2017

**Meeting Summary**

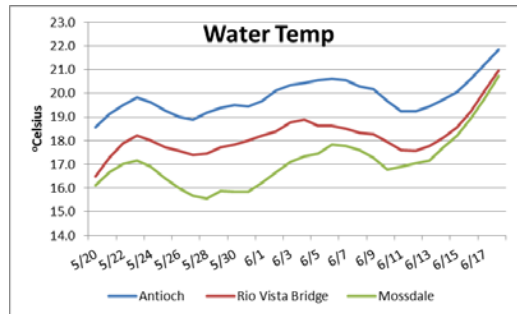
The Working Group reviewed current Delta conditions, survey data, expected exports, and forecasted weather. The SWG indicated that the anticipated negative OMR flows later this week are sufficiently protective of Delta Smelt.

The Working Group is following guidance for entrainment protections from Action 3 (larval/juvenile Delta Smelt). The Working Group will continue to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions. Unless off-ramp conditions are met, the group will meet again on Monday, June 26, 2017 at 10 am.

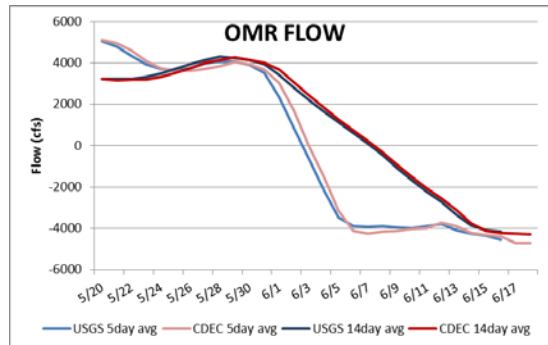
**Reported Data**

1. **Current environmental data**

a. **Temperature**

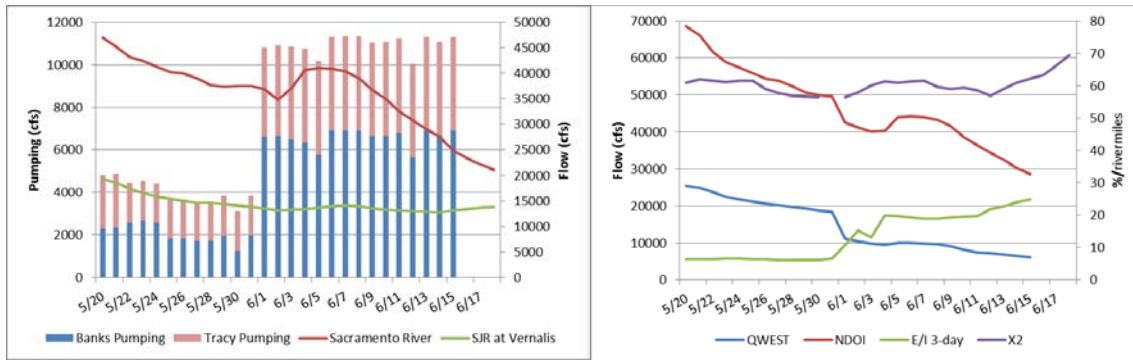


b. **OMR flow**



c. **River flows and pumping**

Sacramento River at Freeport flow for June 18 was approximately 21,000 cfs. San Joaquin River at Vernalis flow for June 18 was approximately 13,800 cfs. X2 was approximately 69.5 km as of June 18.



## 2. Delta fish monitoring

The 2016 FMWT Index is 8. The 2017 SKT Index is 3.8. Both indices are the 2nd lowest on record.

20mm survey #8 is in the field this week. 20mm survey #6 and 7 processing is not complete.

The Summer tow-net Survey was in the field last week. One 39 mm Delta Smelt was caught at Grizzly Bay.

Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring was in the field last week. One Delta Smelt (20.6 mm) was collected from Honker Bay. Samples are still being processed.

## 3. Modeling

No new PTM runs were requested.

## 4. Salvage

No Delta Smelt salvage has occurred since March 16. Cumulative adult Delta Smelt salvage for the season remains at 56.5.

No larval or juvenile Delta Smelt have been observed in salvage so far this season.

No Longfin Smelt of any life stage has been observed in salvage so far this season.

## 5. Expected Project Operations

Combined pumping on June 19 is 11,080 cfs and expected to remain constant for the week. Index OMR values are expected to remain at or slightly more positive than -5,000 cfs for the week. Vernalis flow is expected to remain fairly constant this week. There currently are no constraints on pumping.

Temperatures are anticipated to remain greater than 100°F through the week. No rain is expected.

## 6. Delta Conditions Team

The DCT has ended regular meetings for the remainder of the water year.

## 7. Biological Opinion Background:

RPA Component 2, Action 3: "The objective of this RPA component (which corresponds to Action 3 in Attachment B), is to improve flow conditions in the Central and South Delta so that

larval and juvenile Delta Smelt can successfully rear in the Central Delta and move downstream when appropriate” (page 282).

The ITL for adult Delta Smelt in WY2017 is 151, as amended in the Service’s April 10, 2017 memo to Reclamation addressing targeted reinitiation of the adult incidental take number. The ITL for juvenile Delta Smelt is 448 fish with a concern level of 298 fish.

## **8. Assessment of Risk Discussion**

### *Delta Smelt Detections*

In the past few weeks, surveys have detected individual juvenile Delta Smelt only in far western Delta stations (Honker Bay, western Suisun, Grizzly Bay, Napa River). Although the total detections are very low, this suggests that a portion of the population is further west than in a typical water year, having been pushed out by higher outflows. The absence of larval smelt in salvage also suggests that the number of fish present in the south Delta is low. However, with the record low population and only one fish detected in each of the survey’s weekly efforts, members cautioned that there is a high degree of uncertainty regarding the distribution of the population.

### *General discussion*

The majority of members indicated that the anticipated OMR flow rate of -5,000 cfs should be sufficiently protective of Delta Smelt for the remainder of the week.

A minority of members indicated that -5,000 cfs OMR provided too great a risk to the larval Delta Smelt in the lower San Joaquin River, if they are present. Members indicated that recently emerged larvae are expected to be present within the Delta this week. Assuming some proportion of the population remains in the lower San Joaquin River, -5,000 cfs OMR flow likely will direct some of those into the Old and Middle River corridors.

Should the off-ramp conditions not be met prior (water temperatures), the Working Group will meet again on Monday, June 26, 2017.