

Smelt Working Group  
June 5, 2017

**Meeting Summary**

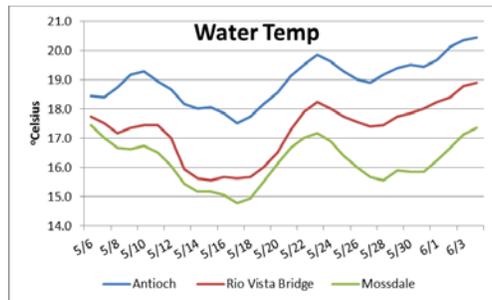
The Working Group reviewed current Delta conditions, survey data, expected exports, and forecasted weather. The SWG indicated that the anticipated negative OMR flows later this week are sufficiently protective of Delta Smelt.

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, and will meet again on Monday, June 12, 2017 at 10 am.

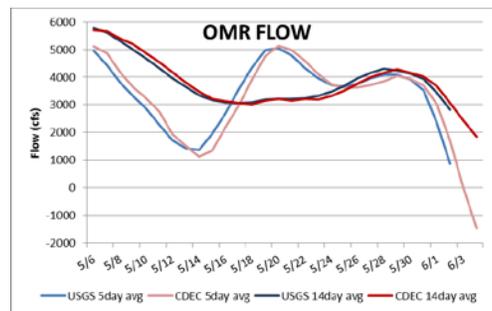
**Reported Data**

1. **Current environmental data**

a. Temperature

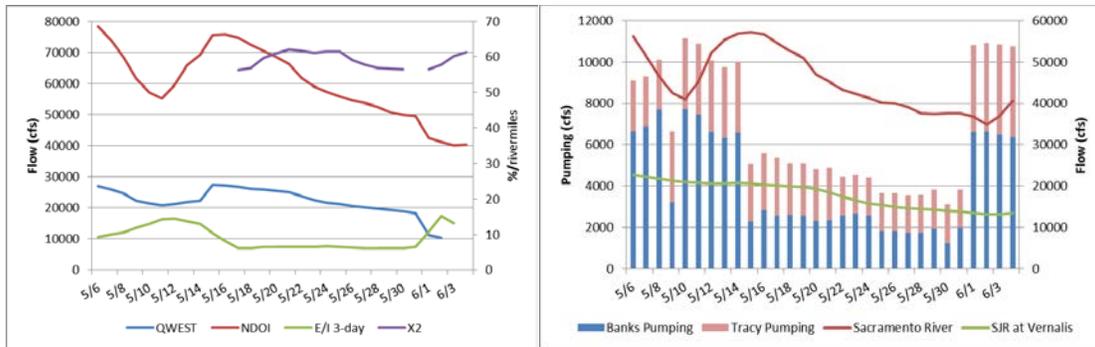


b. OMR flow



c. River flows and pumping

Sacramento River at Freeport flow for June 4 was approximately 40,600 cfs. San Joaquin River at Vernalis flow for June 4 was approximately 13,500 cfs. X2 was approximately 61 km as of June 4.



## 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 #6 was in the field the week of May 22. Processing of samples is 50% complete. Central and south Delta stations have been processed; no smelt were detected at those stations.

Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring was in the field May 22-24. One Delta Smelt (39 mm) was caught in the Napa River. Crews were in the field last week (results have not been distributed yet) and are expected to sample this week as well.

## 3. Modeling

PTM runs were distributed to the group on May 31. These results were discussed. No new PTM model run was requested as yet for next week's meeting.

## 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 5 is 10,700 cfs and expected to remain constant for the week. Index OMR values are expected to remain at approximately -4000cfs for the week.

## 6. Delta Conditions Team

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

## 7. DWR Turbidity Transects

DWR has suspended the survey for the remainder of this water year.

## 8. 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.

## **9. Assessment of Risk Discussion**

### *Delta Smelt Detections*

Recent surveys from the EDSM and 20mm survey have not picked up any fish near the central or south Delta in the past several weeks. A single Delta Smelt was detected in the Napa River last week (no other detections), suggest that a portion of the population may be further out 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 last week’s survey effort, some members cautioned that there is a high degree of uncertainty regarding the distribution of the population.

### *General discussion*

Forecasted flows on the San Joaquin River are expected to rise approximately 2,000 cfs, which would be expected to benefit any Delta Smelt within the south and central Delta. Members indicated that the anticipated OMR flow rate of -4,000 cfs should be sufficiently protective of Delta Smelt for the remainder of the week.

The Working Group will continue to monitor conditions and Delta Smelt distribution and will meet again on Monday, June 12, 2017.