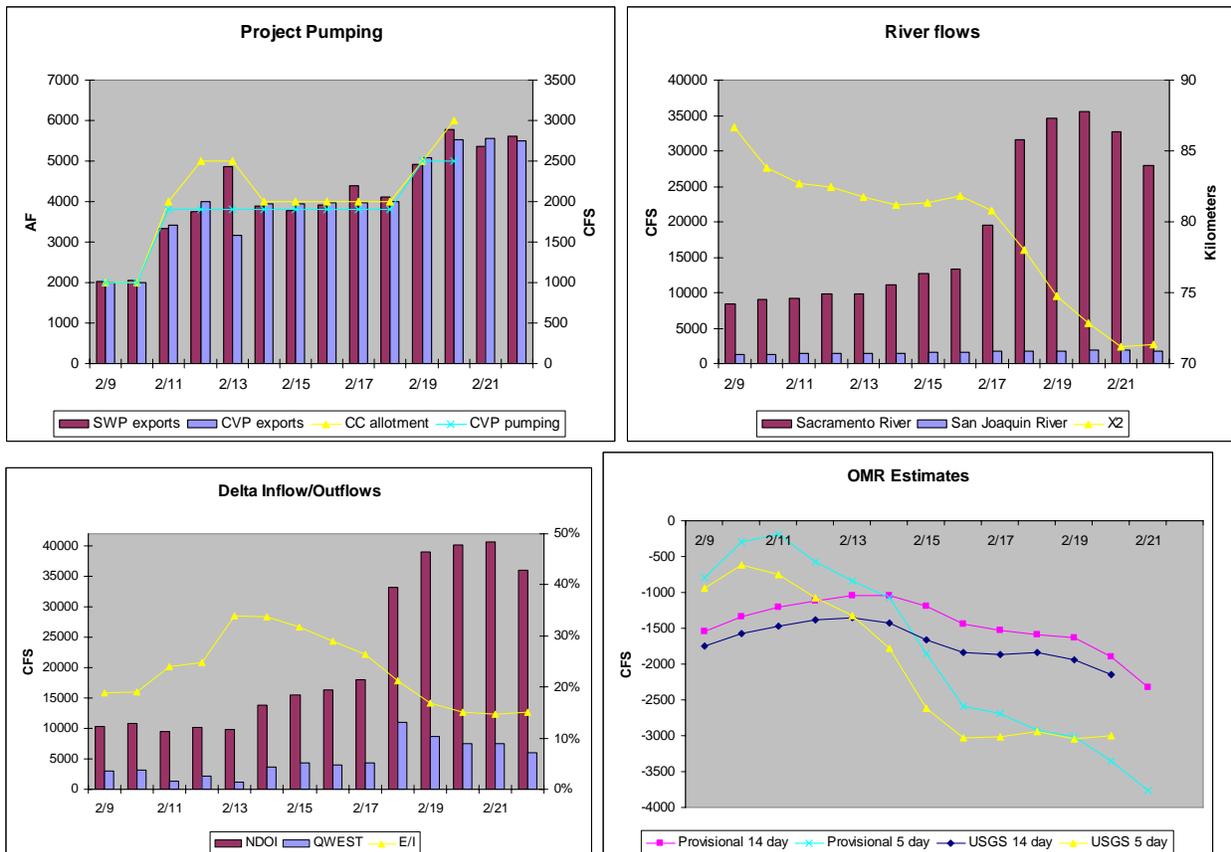


Recommendation for the week of February 23, 2009:

The FWS has determined that we have not entered the Action 3 period because DFG could not confirm that recent osmerid larvae tentatively identified as delta smelt were actually delta smelt. Therefore, we are still in the Action 1 period. Triggers for Action 1 or 2 are: any 3 days of delta smelt salvage at either facility, 3 days average daily turbidity at all monitoring stations, and a single cumulative expanded daily salvage index of 12. No recommendation at this time because the triggers for action 1 have not been met. The group is monitoring the turbidity and salvage monitoring results that could trigger Action 1 in the biological opinion.

1) Current environmental data.

Temperatures for the 3 station average is 10.6 C. Turbidity (as per the new BO, part B of Action 1) was unavailable for the meeting. The provisional OMR estimate by the projects as of February 21 is -2321 cfs for 14 day average, -3772 cfs for 5 day average. USGS OMR as of February 20 is -2149 cfs 14 day average and -2996 cfs for 5 day average. No salvage has been reported for longfin smelt through February 22. Expanded salvage for delta smelt through February 22 is 8. The data are depicted in the graphs below.



2) Delta fish monitoring:

The Smelt Larval Survey #4 was completed last week. Results are anticipated to be released February 25. The final Smelt Larval Survey (#5) will be in the field during the week of March 2. The first 20mm Survey will be in the field during the week of March 9. The Spring Kodiak Trawl Survey #2 captured 61 adult delta smelt, mostly in the Montezuma Slough and lower Sacramento River mainstem. Spring Kodiak Trawl #3 will be in the field the week of March 16. Results from previous larval surveys and the SKT are available online at: <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/projects/?ProjectID=SKT>.

3) Discussion for Recommendation

We are currently monitoring for the triggers (Part B) that would initiate Action 1. The triggers are: a) an average daily turbidity of 12 NTU at the Prisoner's Pt, Holland Cut and Victoria Canal monitoring stations over three days OR b) three days of salvage at the facilities. To date delta smelt have been salvaged only on 2/11 and 2/15. The turbidity for the previous 3 days was not available for the meeting. The triggers have not yet been met and therefore no Action has been recommended or automatically triggered.