

**Smelt Working Group
Monday, January 6, 2014**

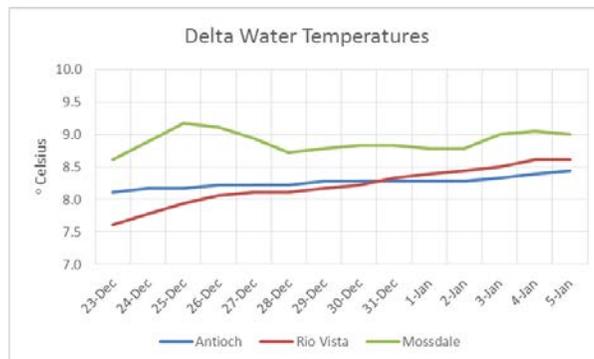
Meeting Summary:

The Working Group agreed that given their present distribution, current salvage, and Delta conditions, the risk of entrainment of delta smelt remains low and therefore, the Working Group recommends that no change in operations is necessary to adequately protect delta smelt from entrainment. The Working Group also agreed that given their present distribution, existing constraining conditions were sufficient to protect longfin smelt. The Working Group will continue to monitor salvage, turbidity, and other conditions and reconvene January 13.

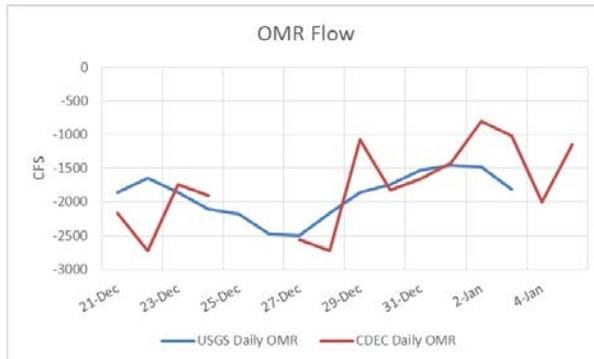
Reported Data:

1. Current environmental data:

- **Water temperatures:**



- **OMR flow:** USGS tidally averaged daily OMR flow on January 3 was -1814 cfs. CDEC daily OMR flow as of January 5 was -1142 cfs.



- **Flow:** Sacramento River average daily flow for January 5 was 8047 cfs and San Joaquin River average daily flow was 944 cfs. X2 calculation from CDEC is upstream of Colinsville (82 km). The graphs below show the most recent trends in Delta hydrology and water quality that were evaluated by the Working Group.



2. Delta Fish Monitoring:

The Smelt Larval Survey #1 began today and will continue through Wednesday. CDFW has added nine stations on the Napa River to the SLS surveys this year, due to the CDFW/State Water Contractors settlement agreement for longfin smelt. Spring Kodiak Trawl #1 will begin next week.

The 2013 Annual FMWT surveys have concluded. The Annual FMWT Index (based on all four months) for delta smelt is 18, the second lowest on record, and statistically indistinguishable from the lowest, 17 from 2009.

The 2013 Delta Smelt Recovery Index (based on September and October) is 4. More information on the Recovery Index can be found on the Bay-Delta Office's web site at http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/species/delta_smelt.cfm. Results from CDFG surveys are available online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/>.

3. Salvage:

No delta smelt or longfin smelt have been salvaged in WY2014 thus far. As of Friday, the CVP is experiencing technical difficulties with the Tracy Fish Collection Facility. Primary bypass gate #4 (at the end of the primary louver structure) is down with no estimated time for repair as yet. This is assumed to dramatically affect the ability to salvage fish, as a larger proportion of fish enter the facility through this gate than the remaining three bypasses.

Current longfin smelt and delta smelt salvage information can be downloaded from DFG's salvage FTP site at <ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/Daily%20Smelt%20Summary/> or queried from DFG's salvage web page at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/SalvageExportCalendar.aspx>

4. Expected Project Operations:

Combined SWP/CVP exports are expected to be approximately 2000 cfs this week. Currently, exports are controlled by salinity intrusion into the central and south Delta and the monthly outflow standard as set by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Although not presently controlling operations, NMFS RPA IV.2.3 is in effect as of January 1, 2014, which restricts OMR flow to no more negative than -5,000 cfs.

5. Particle Tracking Modeling:

No PTM runs were requested for this week.

6. Turbidity Modeling:

No modeling runs were discussed this week.

7. Assessment of Risk:

Background:

RPA Component 1, Action 2: "An action implemented using an adaptive process to tailor protection to changing environmental conditions after action 1. As in Action 1, the intent is to protect pre-spawning adults from entrainment and, to the extent possible, from adverse hydrodynamic conditions."

"The range of net daily OMR flows will be no more negative than -1,250 to -5,000 cfs. Depending on extant conditions (and the general guidelines below) specific OMR flows within this range are recommended by the SWG from the onset of Action 2 through its termination..." (page 35).

Discussion:

The Working Group reviewed and discussed all relevant data from Delta monitoring, salvage, field surveys, and planned Project operations. The Service announced the Incidental Take Limit and Concern Levels for both adult and juvenile delta smelt for WY2014. Adult take limit is 155 with a concern level of 116 fish. Juvenile take limit is 1007 with a concern level of 671 fish. These numbers reflect the revised take estimate produced last February.

The Working Group agreed there was no need to modify exports at this time to benefit delta or longfin smelt.

CDFW requested input to a concept of adding additional SKT surveys to January and February. The State Water Contractors requested that CDFW add SKT surveys to December as well as

January and February. CDFW assumes the reasoning for the additional surveys is to better ascertain numbers of fish and/or additional risk of entrainment not detected by the FMWT. After some discussion, the Working Group concluded that these additional proposed surveys would put additional pressure on the species (additional take) and would not provide substantive additional information.

The SWG will have an in-person meeting on January 13.