

SMELT WORKING GROUP
Monday, June 24, 2013

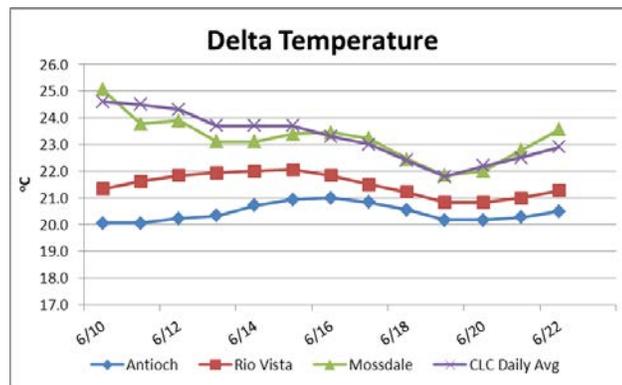
Meeting Summary:

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 will continue to monitor smelt salvage, larval and juvenile smelt survey data, and Delta hydrological conditions until June 30, the last day of implementation of Action 3 of the RPA, and reconvene during that time as necessary. This is the final regularly-scheduled Working Group meeting of season.

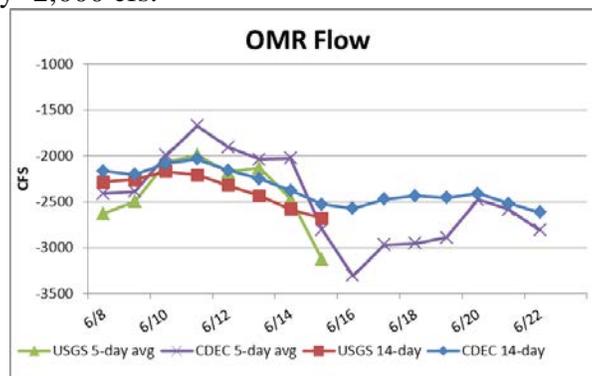
Reported Data:

1) Current environmental data:

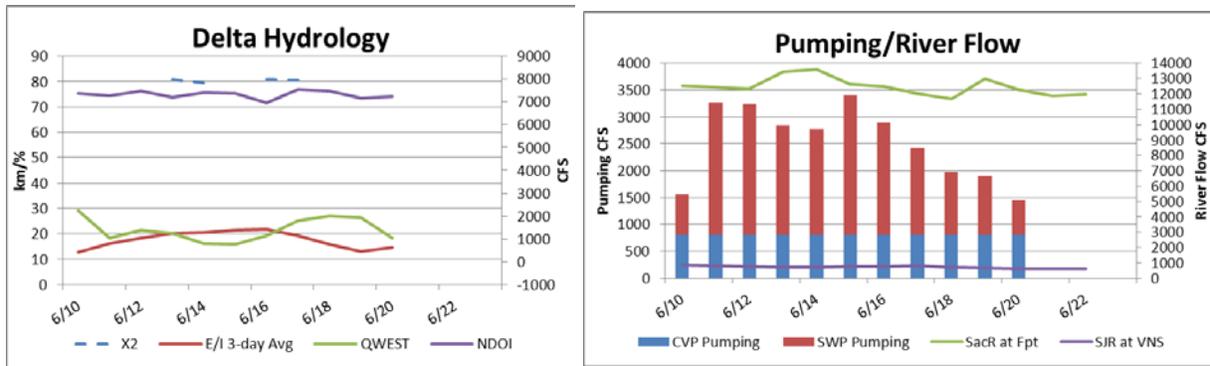
- **Water temperatures:**



- **OMR:** The 5-day and 14-day average OMR flows were reported as approximately 1,500 cfs and -2,128 cfs, respectively, at the time of the Working Group meeting; daily OMR on June 23 was approximately -2,000 cfs.



- **Flow:** Sacramento River flows at Freeport are approximately 12,467 cfs and San Joaquin River at Vernalis is approximately 676 cfs, while X₂ was upstream of Collinsville.



Delta Fish Monitoring:

The 20-mm Survey #8 was in the field June 17 through 20. Processing of samples from Survey #8 is ongoing (43% complete). Twenty-nine (29) juvenile delta smelt (ranging in length from 21-48 mm) and 2 adults delta smelt were collected. The majority of delta smelt were collected in the Sacramento River system and confluence area; no delta smelt were collected in the central and southern Delta. Updated 20-mm Survey data have been uploaded to the 20-mm Survey webpage (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm>).

Summer Tow-Net Survey #2 is in the field this week, beginning today June 24. 20-mm Survey #9 (the final survey of the season) will be in the field during the week of July 1.

The 2012 annual Fall Midwater Trawl Index (September through December) is 42. The combined SWP and CVP total allowable take for adult delta smelt for the WY 2013 as calculated from the FMWT Index using the formula prescribed in the BO is 362 (revised). The combined SWP and CVP total allowable take for larval-juvenile delta smelt for the WY 2013 following the formula in Table C-4 of the BO is 2,350 (revised).

The 2012 Delta Smelt Recovery Index (based on September and October) is 13. 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 CDFW surveys are available online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/>.

1) Salvage:

Delta Smelt:

A total of 4 young of the year delta smelt of salvageable size (≥ 20 mm) was observed at the SWP fish facilities for the reporting period of June 17 through June 23 (no salvage at the CVP). The season total for juvenile delta smelt ≥ 20 mm is 1,741; or 74% of the WY 2013 larval/juvenile incidental take limit of 2,350. Larval fish sampling was conducted at the SWP from June 17 and June 18 and the CVP from June 17 through June 20; no delta smelt (< 20 mm) was observed in the larval fish samples from either facility.

Larval fish sampling was ceased at the SWP on June 18 and at the CVP on June 21.

Longfin Smelt:

No young of the year (≥ 20 mm FL) longfin smelt (LFS) was salvaged at either fish facility for the reporting period of June 17 through June 23. No LFS post-larva < 20 mm have been observed in larval fish samples collected at either the SWP or CVP since May 7.

Salvage Operations

Construction at the Antioch fish release site began at the beginning of June, and is ongoing. At this time, all USBR fish releases are currently occurring at the Emmaton site.

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>

2) Expected Project Operations:

Projected exports at the CVP are targeting 800 cfs. Exports at the CVP were halted for a 24-hr period beginning Saturday, June 22. Projected exports at the SWP are targeting 1500 cfs. Project exports are currently being controlled by the D-1641 minimum Delta outflow standard, which requires meeting 7,100 cfs outflow at Collinsville for the month (3-day average). The D-1641 Collinsville outflow standard will end on June 30.

3) Particle Tracking Modeling:

No PTM runs were requested for this week.

4) Assessment of Risk:

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).

Upon completion of RPA Component 1 or when Delta water temperatures reach 12°C (based on a 3-station average of daily average water temperature at Mossdale, Antioch, and Rio Vista) or when a spent female delta smelt is detected in the trawls or at the salvage facilities, the projects shall operate to maintain OMR flows no more negative than -1,250 to -5,000 cfs based on a 14-day running average with a simultaneous 5-day running average within 25 percent of the applicable 14-day OMR flow requirement. Depending on the extant conditions, the SWG shall make recommendations for the specific OMR flows within this range from the onset of implementing RPA Component 2 through its termination. The Service shall make the final determination regarding specific OMR flows. This action shall end June 30 or when the daily

water temperature at Clifton Court Forebay reaches 25°C for three consecutive days (pages 282 and 358).

Discussion: The Working Group reviewed and discussed all relevant data from Delta monitoring, salvage, field surveys, and planned Project operations.

The Working Group is following the guidance provided in Action 3 of the RPA for assessing the risk of entrainment to juveniles. The Working Group discussed its June 17 recommendation, the March 12 Service determination, the WY 2013 juvenile delta smelt Incidental Take Limit (ITL), the recent delta smelt distribution data from field surveys, and the low level of salvage of juvenile and larval delta smelt.

Daily OMR flows since June 17 have ranged between approximately -2,007 and -4,070 cfs. Exports are presently constrained by D-1641 to support the 7,100 cfs outflow water quality standard at Collinsville.

Delta smelt distribution data from field surveys conducted every other week since the beginning of May (20-mm Surveys #5 through #8) indicate that the center of delta smelt distribution has been out of the south Delta. The majority of delta smelt collected from 20-mm Survey #7 (in the field the week of June 3), were observed in the lower Sacramento River and confluence area, and no delta smelt were collected in the south and central Delta from 20-mm Survey# 8 (in the field the week of June 17).

A total of 4 larval/juvenile delta smelt (≥ 20 mm) was salvaged over the reporting period of June 17 through June 23, all at the SWP facility. This is a reduction when compared to the weekly salvage totals from previous weeks. The cumulative seasonal total of salvaged larval/juvenile delta smelt is 1,741, or 74% of the WY 2013 total ITL of 2,350.

The weekly salvage decreased dramatically over this last week, and is expected to continue to decrease following a pattern of reduced salvage occurring after south Delta temperatures approach 25° C. Water temperatures at Clifton Court Forebay have decreased to between 22° C and 23° C over the last week, after reaching a maximum of 25° C on 06/08 and 06/09. While salvage can be expected to continue to decline, the Working Group also discussed that salvage could continue into July.

Based on the review of current delta smelt distribution and salvage data, current Delta conditions and projected operations, the Working Group agrees that projected operations are sufficiently protective of delta smelt. The Working Group will continue to monitor Delta conditions and survey and salvage data.

The Working Group remains prepared to meet at the Service's request; however, this is the last scheduled Working Group of WY 2013, as we approach the Action 3 temporal off ramp of June 30th (this coming Sunday).