

SMELT WORKING GROUP
Friday, January 27, 2012

Meeting Summary:

The Working Group held a call on January 27, 2012 at 9:00 AM because there had been three consecutive days of delta smelt salvage, which met the criteria for the initiation of Action 1 of the OCAP RPA. The Working Group determined that while the salvage criterion had been met, delta smelt distribution and Delta conditions remain favorable, and therefore, the risk of entrainment remains low. The Working Group will continue to monitor salvage, survey data and hydrologic conditions, and will reconvene on January 30, 2012. No recommendations were made.

Reported Data:

1) Delta Fish Monitoring:

There were no new survey data available to report; the survey data reported on the January 23 Working Group call remained current. There were no delta smelt collected in the Central Delta. No data were available to release from the January 17th Smelt Larva Survey, though preliminary data indicate no adult delta smelt were collected.

2) Salvage:

Delta smelt were salvaged over three consecutive days beginning January 24, 2012. The salvage for each date is as follows:

01/24: 4
01/25: 4
01/26: 5 *

***NOTE:** These data were preliminary at the time of this call but was confirmed later that day

3) Current Environmental Data:

- **Turbidity:** As of January 25th, reported 3-day turbidity data at Prisoner's Point (2.6 ntu), Holland Cut (5.1 ntu), and Victoria Canal (5.5 ntu) remain low. A participant on the call confirmed that the turbidities were even lower than these on January 26th, though the specific data were not reported on the call.

- **QWEST:** <6000 cfs

4) Expected Project Operations:

CVP is currently pumping 4 units at 3150 cfs. Keswick is currently running at 4000 cfs; beginning February 1st, they plan to reduce releases by 100 cfs each day to reach 3500 cfs by February 8th. American River is currently running at 1700 cfs, and will be reduced to 1450 cfs by February 8th. SWP is currently pumping 3000 cfs, and will continue at this rate through the

weekend. There is no change to Feather River releases, Freeport is at 30,000 cfs. Vernalis is at 2100 cfs. OMR is -4300 cfs.

5) Assessment of Risk:

The Working Group reviewed and discussed all relevant data from fish surveys, salvage, Delta conditions, and planned Project operations. While there have been three consecutive days of delta smelt salvage of 4-5 fish/day, survey data show a favorable distribution of the species out of the Central Delta. In addition, turbidities remain low, QWEST was positive and OMR is less negative than -5000 cfs. The Working Group determined that while the salvage criterion of Action 1 was met, the criterion was intended to address situations where adult delta smelt appeared to be responding to increasing flows and rising turbidity, which did not accord with current Delta conditions. Delta smelt distribution and Delta conditions generally remain favorable, and therefore, the risk of entrainment remains low.