

Determination of Actions Required Under Component 1 of the 2008 OCAP Biological Opinion

December 17, 2012

For the week of December 17, 2012, the Service has determined that OMR flows be no more negative than -2,000 cfs for a total duration of 14 days, with a 5-day running average no more negative than -2,500 cfs (within 25 percent).

The Service's determination is based on the Smelt Working Group (SWG) recommendation made on December 17, 2012. The SWG recommended OMR flows of no more negative than -2,000 cfs beginning as soon as possible to protect pre-spawning adult delta smelt from entrainment, and provide advantageous hydrodynamic conditions early in the migration period.

Adult delta smelt have been salvaged at either the state or Federal salvage facility over five consecutive days, beginning December 12, 2012. As of December 16, 2012, 26 adult delta smelt had been salvaged. Given current hydrodynamic conditions and without this protective action, the SWG anticipates the current delta smelt salvage trend to continue or possibly increase. The SWG cautioned that take of adult delta smelt may be substantial given current hydrodynamic conditions, and agreed that the salvage trigger for Part B of Action 1 was appropriate to use at this time.

The Service has determined the SWG recommendation to start Action 1 is necessary to protect pre-spawning adult delta smelt from entrainment, and reduce adult salvage of delta smelt.