

Draft

WEEKLY ADVICE FOR THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR DELTA SMELT

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Recommendation for week of January 19:

The Smelt Working Group does not have a delta smelt recommendation at this time.

Basis for recommendation:

The 2008 OCAP biological opinion indicates that RPA Component 1, Action 1(b) may be implemented on or after December 20, based upon two criteria:

1. Turbidity - 3 day, 3 station average turbidity at Prisoner's Point, Holland Tract, and Victoria Canal exceeds 12 NTU.
2. Salvage - 3 days of delta smelt salvage at either facility or if the cumulative daily salvage count is above the risk threshold based upon the "daily salvage index" approach. The FMWT index value is 17, therefore the daily salvage index value is 8.

Neither of these criteria has been met, so no recommendation was made.

Once triggered, OMR flows must be maintained no more negative than -2000cfs on a 14-day running average and no more negative than -2500cfs on a 5-day running average.

No graphs were circulated.

The Spring Kodiak Trawl was discussed. From 1-11-2010 to 1-13-2010, 25 delta smelt were collected from 7 stations. Of these, 9 were females at gonadal development stages 2 and 3 (not ripe for spawning) and 15 males were also at stages 2 and 3. Capture locations were in the Sacramento River Deep Water Shipping Channel, Sacramento River, and the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River.

The Smelt Larval Survey is expected to begin today. Results will be discussed when they are released.

The current weather system was discussed. The storm began January 12 and precipitation is expected through late this week. Although Delta turbidity is presently low at the 3 Service criteria stations, the storms are expected to bring enough rain that a flush event could occur and turbidity might increase in the Delta. The SWG thinks it is possible that Action 1 Part B of the FWS BO to be triggered in the upcoming week following the storm.

WEEKLY ADVICE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME FOR LONGFIN SMELT

Advice for week of January 18:

Draft

The Smelt Working Group does not have longfin smelt advice at this time.

Basis for advice:

The 2009 State Water Project 2081 for longfin smelt states that advice to the DFG Director shall be based on:

1. Adult Salvage – total adult (≥ 80 mm) longfin smelt expanded salvage (SWP+CVP) for December through February > 5 times the Fall Midwater Trawl longfin smelt annual abundance index.
2. Adult abundance, distribution or other information indicates that OMR flow advice is warranted.
3. Larva distribution in the Smelt Larva Survey or the 20mm Survey finds longfin smelt larvae present at 8 of 12 Central and South Delta sampling stations in 1 survey (809, 812, 815, 901, 902, 906, 910, 912, 914, 915, 918, 919).
4. Larva catch per tow exceeds 15 longfin smelt larvae or juveniles in 4 or more of the 12 survey stations listed.

No adult longfin smelt were salvaged in the past week and none have been salvaged since the December 1, 2009 criterion period for salvage began. The threshold for the first criterion is a combined expanded salvage exceeding 325 adults occurring during the period December 1 through February 28.

There is no new information on adult distribution. Only a few longfin smelt adults have been collected in the San Joaquin River and farther south in December and January. In December, FMWT caught 2 at Station 810 (north/upstream of False River) and Bay Study got 1 at 837 (Antioch Bridge). In January, Bay Study collected 1 at 864 (near Old River mouth).

There is no new larva distribution information, but the second Smelt Larva Survey begins today, January 18. Neither longfin smelt larva criterion was met based on the first Smelt Larva Survey of 2010, which was conducted January 4-5. Samples from 27 of 35 stations were processed in time for SWG discussion, including those from all criteria stations. Longfin smelt larvae were detected at 7 of 12 criteria locations and larva catch exceeded 15 at only 2 criteria locations.

If either adult condition triggers advice, advice is limited to OMR flows maintained at no more negative than -5000 cfs on a 14-day running average and an initial 5-day running average is no more negative than -6,250 cfs. If either larva/juvenile condition triggers advice, advice can restrict OMR flow levels to between -1,250 and -5000 cfs on a 14-day running average and the 5-day running average is within 25 percent of the required OMR flow.