

**M e m o r a n d u m**

Date : June 24, 2002

To : Management Agencies

From : Project Agencies  
Department of Water ResourcesSubject : **Fish Action #3-02: January 5 through 9, 2002**Description of Actions

The Delta Smelt Workgroup convened on January 4, 2002, to discuss salvage levels of delta smelt at the SWP and CVP export facilities. The take of adult delta smelt had reached approximately 2,106 on January 3, 2002, and was expected to increase on January 4, 2002. (The reconsultation level for January in a below normal year is 13,354 fish). About 80 percent of the delta smelt entrainment was occurring at the SWP.

Preliminary examination of the entrained female delta smelt revealed ova sizes of approximately 0.1 to 0.4 millimeters. Since females require an ova size of about 0.9 millimeters for spawning, this suggested that these fish were about one month away from spawning. The Workgroup concluded that these adult fish should be protected, and that an action should be taken to reduce exports. Based upon the projected entrainment and export rates without some action, the reconsultation level would likely have been reached by January 9, 2002.

There was also concern over the salvage level of spring-run chinook salmon surrogate fish. The December spring-run surrogate release (the December Coleman Hatchery late fall chinook salmon release) cumulative loss rate at the SWP increased significantly between December 31, 2001, and January 1, 2002. The cumulative loss rate was relatively low (less than 50 per day); however, it increased to 280 per day on December 31, 2001, and then decreased to 8 per day on January 1, 2002. The coded wire tags were read and the preliminary cumulative loss rate through January 1, 2001 was 0.8 percent. The density increased on December 31, 2001, to 19 fish per thousand acre-feet of water (from less than 4 earlier), then back to one fish per TAF on January 1, 2002. The Sacramento Catch Index (for Chinook in the 70 to 150 millimeter length

range) increased gradually throughout the week to 12.8, primarily due to the beach seine catch. Catches at the other monitoring locations remained relatively low. The Knights Landing Catch Index increased on December 31, 2001, but decreased the next day.

The Delta Smelt Workgroup recommended that the SWP curtail exports to 1,500 cfs in order to reduce adult smelt entrainment between January 5 and 9, 2002. The NMFS concurred with the recommendation to reduce exports for the benefit of salmon, but by January 7, 2002, their concern for spring-run chinook salmon had diminished. Therefore, the remaining export reduction was for the protection of delta smelt.

#### Estimated Cost of Action

The Department of Water Resources has estimated that these actions reduced SWP exports by approximately 66 TAF. The estimate assumes SWP exports would have been approximately between 7,850 and 8,650 cfs in the base operation. The actual amount could be either more or less dependent upon the actual operations required to meet Delta Standards.

#### Method of Accounting for Costs

DWR will provide to the Management Agencies an accounting of the actual water, energy, storage and conveyance costs or credits associated with the use of EWA assets in a future settlement of all EWA costs and credits. The water cost analysis will include a comparison between the actual operation (with the fish action) and a base operation (based on planned exports).

Disagreements regarding the analysis are to be discussed within the B2/EWA Interagency Team. If necessary, disputes will be elevated to the Water Operations Management Team for final resolution.

#### B(2)/EWA Assets

The Management Agencies concluded that this was an EWA action. Therefore, EWA assets were applied to the export reductions of the SWP. This fish action is not to impact the baseline delivery capability of the SWP. Therefore, DWR is to make

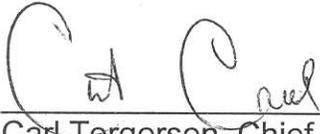
Management Agencies

June 24, 2002

Page 3

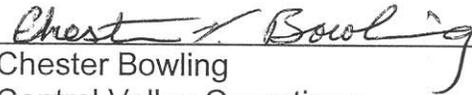
operations and water allocation decisions based upon the base operations plan, absent the fish action.

There were adequate EWA assets available to cover this January fish action. The amount of water and the time it becomes available will be determined when DWR submits the final water cost analysis to the Management Agencies.



for

Carl Torgersen, Chief  
Operations Control Office  
Division of Operations and Maintenance



Chester Bowling  
Central Valley Operations  
Bureau of Reclamation

Management Agency Authorization provided by:

Department of Fish and Game – Perry Herrgesell  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services – Michael Thabault  
National Marine Fisheries Services – Michael Aceituno

cc: Mr. Patrick Wright, Director  
CALFED  
1416 Ninth Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. John Davis, Deputy Regional Director  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
2800 Cottage Way, MP-100  
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

Ms. Diana Jacobs, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director  
California Department of Fish and Game  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1205  
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. James Lecky  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Southwest Region  
U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300  
Sacramento, California 95814-4706

Mr. Wayne White  
Field Supervisor-Ecological Services  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2800 Cottage Way, W-2606  
Sacramento, California 95825