

WOMT Summary for 6/3/2008:

The Smelt Working Group recommended that the Projects keep the agricultural barriers' flapgates tied open and continue operating to a 7-day running average Old & Middle River flow of -2,000 cfs. However, they also recommended changing the OMR target to -1,500 cfs if any of the following occurs: (1) delta smelt densities at the exports are above 40 delta smelt per TAF on two consecutive days, (2) delta smelt densities are above 30 ds/TAF on three days, or (3) daily OMR is more negative than -2,500 cfs on any day.

The Projects expressed concern over the last trigger, given that OMR flow is largely a function of the tides which is out of the Projects' control. Instead, the Projects proposed a limit on the amount of increase in combined exports.

The USFWS determined that the following action would be adequately protective of delta smelt: The ag barriers' flapgates shall be tied open, and the Projects shall continue operating to a 7-day running average Old & Middle River flow of -2,000 cfs, and increases in total project pumping would be limited to no more than 1,000 cfs on any given day. The USFWS determined that with the export increase limit, the other triggers were unnecessary.

DFG determined that the action would be adequately protective of longfin smelt.

Reclamation will continue to open the Delta Cross Channel gates on the weekends through June 15.