

WOMT Summary for February 22, 2011

The WOMT met and discussed the following:

The Smelt Working Group reported no recommendation for Delta smelt or longfin smelt at this time. The Working Group estimated that the overall risk of entrainment was low given the distributional data from recent surveys and believes that, based upon what is known of Delta conditions and delta smelt distribution, a modification of Project operations to protect delta smelt is not yet warranted.

The combined daily older juvenile loss densities were 4.51 fish/TAF on 2/18/2011 and 7.51 fish/TAF on 2/19/2011. The DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS is that CVP/SWP operates at reduced export rates to meet the OMR flow limit of no more negative than -2,500 cfs for at least 5 days, from 2/22/2011 through 2/26/2011, pursuant to RPA action IV.2.3 in the NMFS Biological Opinion. A follow-up DOSS call was scheduled on Friday, 2/25/2011, to review the export, OMR flow, and fish loss data and determine if further actions are warranted.

NMFS determines that CVP/SWP shall operate to reduce exports in order to meet the OMR flows of no more negative than -2,500 cfs from Tuesday, 2/22/2011 through Saturday, 2/26/2011. Beginning with the first full 5-day running average of OMR flows under adjusted operations (which will average OMR flows from 2/22 through 2/26), until there is some relaxation of the OMR flow requirement, the 5-day running average shall be no more than 25% more negative than -2,500 cfs. If the combined fish loss density drops to below 6.64 but above 3.32 fish/TAF for three consecutive days on 2/24, 2/25, and 2/26, the CVP/SWP export may increase on 2/27 to meet the OMR flow limit of no more negative than -3,500 cfs. If the combined fish loss density drops to below 3.32 fish/TAF for three consecutive days on 2/24, 2/25, and 2/26, the CVP/SWP export may increase on 2/27 to meet the OMR flow limit of no more negative than -5,000 cfs. NMFS will notify DWR if further actions are warranted starting on Sunday, 2/27/2011.