

WOMT Summary for March 8, 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 DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS is to continue targeting an OMR flow of no more negative than -2,500 cfs, until the combined older juvenile Chinook salmon loss density at the fish facilities declines to less than 6.64 fish/TAF for three consecutive days.

Since the combined older juvenile Chinook salmon loss density was estimated to be 12.32 fish/TAF (exceeded the second stage trigger of the 2nd OMR trigger of 12 fish/TAF) on 3/7/11, DOSS also advises NMFS and WOMT that this does not constitute a new trigger exceedance that warrants a new action response of 5 days, but a continuation of the existing action (operating to OMR flow of no more negative than -2,500 cfs). If the daily loss densities decline or the preliminary estimate(s) (prior to being confirmed by DFG) are close to the first or second stage trigger in the NMFS BiOp, DOSS will meet tentatively on Friday (3/11/11) to discuss and provide advice to NMFS and WOMT.

NMFS accepts the advice from DOSS and determines that managing CVP/SWP operations is consistent with the intended implementation of Action IV.2.3 and sufficiently protective of listed species present in the Delta at this time. NMFS will notify DWR on Friday (3/11/2011) if further actions are warranted.