

## **WOMT Summary for April 26, 2011**

The WOMT met and discussed the following:

The Smelt Working Group reported no recommendation for Delta smelt or longfin smelt at this time and will continue to monitor salvage, survey data and hydrological conditions. 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.

DOSS advises WOMT and NMFS to implement the San Joaquin River inflow to export ratio (Action IV.2.1) in the following manner consistent with the NMFS 2009 OCAP BiOp. The ratio in most years would start on April 1st and be applied for the subsequent 61 day period to achieve the flow to export ratios on the San Joaquin River indicated in the BiOp. Since this year flows on the San Joaquin River were above the flood monitoring stage on April 1, RPA Action IV.2.1 has not restricted exports since the beginning of April, 2011, as per the criteria in RPA Action IV.2.1. However, at this time, flows on the San Joaquin River are expected to soon drop below the threshold for unrestricted export levels (21,750 cfs or 24.5 feet river stage). DOSS advises that the inflow to export ratio (I:E ratio) should start within 3 days of the Vernalis flows dropping below the 21,750 cfs flow threshold in the NMFS BiOp. This is projected to occur after this Thursday, 4/28/11. A 14-day average of Vernalis flows will be used to measure compliance with the implementation of this action.

The projects have been operating to an OMR limit of -5,000 cfs, and the reported loss densities over the past week have not exceeded any of the triggers of Action IV.2.3. Therefore, DOSS advises WOMT and NMFS that the projects should continue to operate to the OMR limit of -5,000 cfs.

NMFS accepts the advice from DOSS and determines that managing CVP/SWP operations is consistent with the intended implementation of Actions IV.2.3 and IV.2.1 and sufficiently protective of listed species present in the Delta at this time.