

WOMT Summary for Feb 22, 2012

The WOMT met and discussed the following:

DOSS advises that the criteria for RPA Action IV.2.3 was exceeded on 2/18 requiring Projects to operate to OMR flow no more negative than -3,500 cfs starting on 2/21 and continue for 5 days until 2/25. If the daily SWP/CVP older juvenile Chinook salmon loss density is less than the criteria (2.5 fish/TAF) during the last 3 days, the OMR flows can relax back to -5,000 cfs starting 2/26. Currently, export operations are being controlled by D-1641 requirements for X2 days at Chipps Island resulting in OMR flows significantly less negative than -3500 cfs. Therefore, no change in operations is required.

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.

The Smelt Working Group will continue to monitor salvage, survey data and hydrological conditions. The Working Group agreed that given their present distribution, low levels of salvage, and current delta conditions, risk of entrainment of delta smelt remains low and therefore, the Working Group recommends that no change in operations is necessary to adequately protect delta smelt from entrainment. The Working Group also agreed that given their present distribution, existing constraining conditions was sufficient to protect longfin smelt. The collection of a spent female in the SKT Survey #2 on February 15 indicates that delta smelt spawning has begun. The Working Group began discussing the risk of entrainment for larval delta smelt and any discussion of a recommendation was intended to protect larval and adult delta smelt. The Working Group will follow the guidance for Action 3 of the 2008 FWS B.O.