

WOMT Summary for March 20, 2012

WOMT met and discussed the following:

DOSS advises that the OMR flow of no more negative than -3,500 cfs per RPA action IV.2.3 continue to be implemented until March 23, 2012 (Friday), based on a new 5-day action beginning Monday, 3/19/12. The older juvenile Chinook loss-density trigger of 2.5 fish/TAF was exceeded on 3/18/12 and NMFS was notified on 3/19/12. If the last 3 consecutive days of older juvenile Chinook loss density <2.5 fish/TAF before 3/23/12, the Projects can relax the OMR criteria to no more negative than -5,000 cfs.

DOSS advice on OMR flows beginning on 4/1/12 will include consideration of both the PTM information per the NMFS OMR Technical Memo issued 3/16/12 and the loss densities at the fish collection facilities per RPA Action IV.2.3.

NMFS accepts the advice from DOSS and determines that the DOSS advice 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 smelt salvage, adult and larval smelt survey data and Delta 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.

Currently as of 3/20, the FWS and DFG deem that no additional actions are needed for protection of delta and longfin smelt.