

WOMT Summary for March 15, 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 NMFS and WOMT to continue to operate to an OMR flow limit of no more negative than -2,500 cfs, at least through Friday, 3/18/2011 (the 5th day of operations under the -2,500 OMR limit which began Monday, 3/14/2011). After Friday, the OMR limit may be relaxed when the combined older juvenile Chinook salmon loss density at the fish facilities declines to less than 6.64 fish/TAF for 3 consecutive days.

On Friday, 3/18/2011, DWR, Reclamation, and NMFS will review (via e-mail) the recent loss densities and assess the need for further review of loss densities over the weekend. If, for example, the loss densities for Wednesday and Thursday (reported on Friday) are below 6.64 fish/TAF, DWR, Reclamation, and NMFS will designate staff to, on Saturday, review Friday's loss density data and evaluate a possible relaxation of the OMR limit. If the loss density for Thursday (reported on Friday) is above 6.64 fish/TAF, no weekend review will be necessary, since the third day of the next three-day series of loss densities (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) will not be available until Monday, when Sunday's loss density will be reported.

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 Projects Operators during the weekend if further actions are warranted.