

PARTICIPANTS

- CDFW
- DWR
- NMFS
- SWRCB
- USBR
- USFWS
- Kearns & West

ACTION ITEMS

- If there are meaningful changes in hydrology by the end of the week, DWR will conduct a new Particle Tracking Model (PTM) run with -2,500 cfs and base case OMR Index scenarios and insertion points at Stations 809, 812, and 901.
- Reclamation will include the Stockton weather forecast (alongside or instead of Antioch) in their environmental conditions report going forward.
- USFWS will share a memo that describes EDSM's plans for Phase 2 sampling.
- USFWS will reshare a previously distributed analysis of turbidity patterns and Delta Smelt (DS).

MEETING SUMMARY

PART 1: Updates on Water Operations and Biological Updates

CDFW provided an update on one of the March 9th SMT action items: they requested management advice on whether to use daily average turbidity values as reported on CDEC or 15-minute average turbidity values to assess if the turbidity bridge avoidance action of the ITP has been triggered (i.e., turbidity > 12 NTU). While CDFW prefers the daily average of 15-minute event measurement of turbidity because it is less susceptible to outliers, they will continue to rely on the daily average on CDEC with the expectation that DWR operators will alert them if there is a discrepancy between the two measurements that should be considered by the SMT.

Relevant Actions & Triggers

USBR reported on the OMR management measures currently in effect and whether they have been triggered; CDFW reported on the ITP Conditions of Approval that are currently in effect and whether they have been triggered. The descriptions below are intended as summaries and do not provide all the details related to each action or trigger. For full descriptions, please see the OMR guidance document or ITP as relevant.

Proposed Action

OMR Management Measures	Requirement	Time Frame	Trigger	Triggered?
Integrated Early Winter Pulse Protection ("First	Reduce exports for 14 consecutive days so that the 14-day averaged	Dec 1 to Jan 31	(1) Running three-day average of daily flows at Freeport >25,000 cfs; and	No

OMR Management Measures	Requirement	Time Frame	Trigger	Triggered?
Flush” Turbidity Event)	OMR index for the period shall not be more negative than -2,000 cfs		(2) Running three-day average of daily turbidity at Freeport \geq 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU ¹); or (3) Real-time monitoring indicates a high risk of migration and dispersal into areas at high risk of future entrainment or a spent DS has been collected in monitoring surveys.	
OMR Management	Manage to a more positive OMR than -5,000 cfs	From the onset of OMR management to the end		Yes (initiated on 1/1/2021 for salmon)
Turbidity Bridge Avoidance (“South Delta Turbidity”)	If the daily average turbidity at Bacon Island cannot be maintained less than 12 NTU, manage exports to achieve an OMR no more negative than -2,000 cfs until the daily average turbidity at Bacon Island drops below 12 NTU.	After the first flush or Feb 1 (whichever comes first) and until a ripe or spent female is detected or April 1 (whichever is first)	Average daily turbidity in Old River at Bacon Island (OBI) at a level of more than 12 NTU.	No
Larval and Juvenile DS	Run hydrodynamic models and forecasts of entrainment, informed by the EDSM or other relevant survey data to estimate the percentage of larval and juvenile DS that could be entrained. If necessary, manage exports to limit entrainment to be protective based on the modeled recruitment levels.	On or after March 15 of each year until off-ramp criteria are met	If QWEST is negative AND larval or juvenile DS are within the entrainment zone of the pumps based on real-time sampling of spawning adults or young of year life stages	No

¹ The current instrumentation measures turbidity in Formazin Nephelometric Units (FNU).

ITP Conditions of Approval

Condition of Approval	Requirement	Time Frame	Trigger	Triggered?
8.1.5.2 (Smelt Monitoring Team Risk Assessment)	Outlines contents for weekly risk assessments of DS and Longfin Smelt required under 8.1.5 and 8.1.1	Nov 1 st through June 30 th or until off-ramped by 8.8		Yes
8.3.1 (Integrated Early Winter Pulse Protection)	Reduce south Delta exports for 14 consecutive days to maintain a 14-day average OMR index no more negative than -2,000 cfs, and convene the Smelt Monitoring Team within one day of triggering. After maintaining a 14-day average OMR index no more negative than -2,000 cfs for 14 days, Permittee shall maintain a 14-day average OMR index no more negative than -5,000 cfs, initiating the OMR Management season.	Dec 1 to Jan 31	Three day running average daily flows at Freeport greater than, or equal to, 25,000 cfs, AND Three day running average of daily turbidity at Freeport is greater than, or equal to, 50 FNU OR The Smelt Monitoring Team determines that real-time monitoring of abiotic and biotic factors indicates a high risk of DS) migration and dispersal into areas at high risk of future entrainment.	No
8.3.3 (Adult Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection)	After December 1, if an Integrated Early Winter Pulse Protection (Condition of Approval 8.3.1) has not yet initiated, Permittee shall reduce south Delta exports to maintain a 14-day average OMR index no more negative than -5,000 cfs and initiate OMR Management if: Cumulative expanded salvage, Dec 1 st through Feb 28 th , exceeds most recent FMWT Index divided by 10, or SMT determines that there is a high risk of entrainment.	Dec 1 through Feb 28th	Salvage threshold is three Longfin Smelt (LFS) for WY 2021.	No
8.4.1 (OMR Management for Adult Longfin Smelt)				Off-ramped due to detection of Longfin Smelt larvae on December 28 th
8.4.2 (Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection)	If triggered, it will restrict south Delta exports for seven consecutive days in order to maintain a seven-day average OMR index no more negative than -5,000 cfs and convene the SMT to recommend an	January 1st through June 30th or until the temperature	(1) LFS larvae or juveniles are found in four or more of the 12 Smelt Larval Survey (SLS) or 20 mm stations in the central or south Delta, Or (2) LFS catch per tow	Triggered on 1/26, 2/2, 2/23, 3/9, 3/16

Condition of Approval	Requirement	Time Frame	Trigger	Triggered?
	OMR flow limit between -1,250 and -5,000 cfs.	offramp occurs	exceeds five larvae or juveniles in two or more of the 12 stations in the central or south Delta. The relevant stations are: 809, 812, 815, 901, 902, 906, 910, 912, 914, 915, 918 and 919	
8.4.3 High flow offramp for Longfin Smelt	If triggered, Conditions of Approval 8.4.1 and 8.4.2 are not required or would cease if previously required.	Throughout OMR management	When river flows are (a) greater than 55,000 cfs in the Sacramento River at Rio Vista or (b) greater than 8,000 cfs in the San Joaquin River at Vernalis. If flows subsequently drop below 40,000 cfs in the Sacramento River at Rio Vista or below 5,000 cfs in the San Joaquin River at Vernalis, the OMR limit previously required as a part of Conditions of Approval 8.4.1 and 8.4.2 shall resume.	No
8.5.1 Turbidity Bridge Avoidance	maintain daily average turbidity in Old River at Bacon Island (OBI) at a level of less than 12 NTU. If the daily average turbidity at OBI is greater than 12 NTU, Permittee shall restrict south Delta exports to achieve an OMR flow that is no more negative than -2,000 cfs until the daily average turbidity at OBI is less than 12 NTU.	After the first flush or Feb 1 until April 1st	Turbidity at OBI > 12 FNU	No
8.5.2 (Larval and Juvenile Delta Smelt Protection)	If triggered, this Condition of Approval will restrict south Delta exports for seven consecutive days in order to maintain a seven-day average OMR index no more negative than -5,000 cfs and SMT members will meet to assess the risk of entrainment. The SMT may provide further advice to restrict exports in order to maintain an OMR index more positive than -5,000 cfs. In their assessment, SMT members will determine if risk of entrainment is low, medium, or high; subsequent OMR restrictions will be based on level of risk. Furthermore, if salvage of DS exceeds 11 in three days, this Condition of Approval will restrict	Nov 1 st through June 30 th or until off-ramped by 8.8	When the five-day salvage of juvenile DS is greater than or equal to one plus the average prior three years' FMWT index (rounded down). The threshold for this year is one.	No

Condition of Approval	Requirement	Time Frame	Trigger	Triggered?
	south Delta exports for seven consecutive days in order to maintain a seven-day average OMR index no more negative than -3,500 cfs.			
8.12 (Barker Slough Pumping Plant Longfin and Delta Smelt Protection)	Barker Slough Pumping Plant will reduce exports so the maximum 7-day average is <60 cfs.	From January 15 through March 31 in dry and critical water years for LFS, and from March 1 st through June 30 th for DS*	Larval Smelt are detected at SLS Station 716 during the period identified for each species, and/or when recommended by the SMT <i>*Note: the SMT is currently is a period of overlap when Condition 8.12 is in effect for LFS and DS, though it has only been triggered for LFS.</i>	Yes for Longfin Smelt (1/19/21, 2/2/21, 2/26/21, 3/16)

Current Operations & Outlook

USBR and DWR shared operations updates from the Outlook. Their observations included:

- USBR CVO reported that there is a chance of precipitation at the end of the week, followed by drier weather over the weekend.
- Releases from Whiskeytown Dam on Clear Creek are currently 200 cfs and a change order was placed this morning to increase to 225 cfs.
- Releases on the Sacramento River from Keswick Dam are currently at 3,500 cfs. USBR does not anticipate changes.
- American River releases from Nimbus Dam are currently 2,000 cfs; flows were increased to 3,500 cfs last week as part of a coordinated federal-state effort to meet the D-1641 outflow requirement of 11,400 cfs for two days.² CVO is now ramping flows back down by 500 cfs/day toward base flows at 1,200 cfs.
- Releases from Goodwin Dam on the Stanislaus River had been 400 cfs to manage salinity at Vernalis but were ramped down to 200 cfs once those conditions were met; Vernalis salinity continues to be monitored.
- Jones Pumping Plant exports are currently 800 cfs. Last week, the pumps were cycled on and off to assist with meeting the D-1641 Delta outflow requirements.
- The Delta Cross-channel Gates are currently closed and are expected to remain closed through mid-May per the PA and D-1641 requirements. Construction activities on the gates remain ongoing. Although completion was anticipated this week, construction will extend through March.
- DWR reported that Feather River releases remained at 1,050 cfs, which are minimum flows.
- Sacramento River flows at Freeport are 10,000 cfs; runoff from previous storms is arriving but will likely be balanced by decreased flows from Nimbus, so Freeport flows will likely remain in the 10,000 cfs range for several days. San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis were 1,100 cfs and will decrease to around 800 cfs because of the reduced Stanislaus releases.

² 10 Chipps days were required, but with eight carryover days, the projects were aiming to meet two days of 11,400 cfs outflow. Those days were met on March 14th and 15th.

- Delta inflows of 7,000 cfs are anticipated over the next few days, but those volumes could increase depending on the amount of precipitation.
- Clifton Court exports were 1,150 cfs over the weekend, 1,500 cfs yesterday, and 2,100 cfs today with a target 2,700 cfs depending on Sacramento flows given the OMR Index (OMRI) restriction of no greater than -2,500 cfs.
- QWEST ranged between 300 and 1500 cfs last week and is -100 cfs today, March 16; with the forecasted rain, it could move back into positive values.
- The OMRI ranged between -500 cfs and -1,000 cfs last week and was -300 cfs over the weekend. If the SMT's recommendation persists, it will be held at -2,500 cfs, but if the recommendation is relaxed and there is enough inflow to support increased exports, OMRI could be more negative (approaching -3,500 cfs) in the coming week.
- X2 is upstream of Collinsville (> 81km).
- Though it was anticipated at the March 8th meeting that the Export to Inflow (E:I) ratio could play a factor in operations, it was ultimately not a factor because of the Projects' actions to meet the Chipps Days requirements. Continuing to meet the 7,100 cfs outflow will be the controlling water quality requirement.

CDFW asked about the reason behind the difference between the CDEC OMR calculation and the OMRI calculation for yesterday, March 15. DWR explained that the calculations, based on USGS sensor measurements and reported on CDEC, are an average that tries to smooth out the extreme highs and lows on a daily cycle, whereas the OMRI calculations smooth out longer term variability associated with the spring and neap tidal cycles. The index was created because of the volatility associated with the sensor readings. After the meeting, DWR provided additional detail explaining the differences seen in yesterday's OMR data: *the USGS believes that the flow sensor was obstructed by some vegetation and that resulted in more positive readings at the Middle River at Middle River Station than would have occurred otherwise. They believe that the vegetation broke off from the station around noon on 3/16/2021 and the reading will return to normal, but they will monitor the situation and make a field run if the problem persists. Due to this event, the CDEC OMR calculations will be higher than expected for 3/15/2021 and 3/16/2021. The OMRI calculations are not impacted by this event.*

Review of Environmental Conditions and Survey Updates

CDFW shared survey updates.

- Smelt Larva Survey (SLS) 5 sampled last week (March 8th to 10th) and 50 percent of samples have been processed. All South and Central Delta stations were processed. Longfin Smelt (LFS) were found at five of the 12 stations, triggering Condition of Approval 8.4.2.³
 - Station 809: 12 LFS (7 to 11 mm, no yolk sacs).
 - Station 812: Two LFS (8 to 9 mm, no yolks sacs).
 - Station 815: One LFS (9 mm, no yolk sacs).
 - Station 901: One LFS(7 mm, with yolk sac).
 - Station 902: Zero LFS.
 - Station 914: Zero LFS.
 - Station 915: Two LFS (7 to 8 mm, no yolks sacs).
 - Station 918: Zero LFS.
 - SLS 5 also detected a LFS at Station 716 in Barker Slough on March 9, triggering Condition 8.12.

³ All of these stations had been processed and were reported at the March 8 SMT meeting.

- SLS 6, the final SLS survey of the year, began on March 15th and will continue through March 17th. They have already sampled all 12 priority stations in the South and Central Delta. Of the six of those samples that have been processed, LFS were detected at four.
 - Station 809: 9 LFS (6-11 mm, 2 with yolk sacs).
 - Station 812: 2 LFS (9-11mm, no yolk sac).
 - Station 815: Zero LFS.
 - Station 901: 5 LFS (6-9 mm, no yolk sac).
 - Station 902: 1 LFS (8 mm, no yolk sac).
 - Station 915: Zero LFS.
- 20mm Survey will start March 22; since the samples arrive at the lab later than SLS samples, the SMT should not expect samples data on Tuesdays immediately after the start of the survey.
- There will be a closure of Old River Bridge starting on May 10 for four months. It could impact the sampling crews' ability to access Station 918, but they are working on a workaround.

USFWS reported on the Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring (EDSM) Program.

- Zero DS were detected last week (March 8 to 12), so there was no abundance estimate generated.
- This week, two to three crews plan to sample Monday through Friday (March 15 to 19). Today, crews are sampling the lower Sacramento River and lower San Joaquin River. They have not detected any DS.
- EDSM did not detect any LFS last week and has not yet detected any this week.
- The Chipps Island Trawl detected three LFS since the last SMT meeting (between March 9 and 15): one on March 9 (70 mm, not transferred to Fish Conservation and Culture Laboratory (FCCL, no signs of expression), one on March 14 (81 mm, transferred to FCCL), one on March 15 (70 mm, not transferred to FCCL, no signs of expression). Currently, the Chipps Island trawl aims to sample five days a week, but due to COVID mitigation, it has not been able to meet that goal all the time; it will continue to sample 5 days per week until mid-May. After that time, it would sample 3 days per week.
- EDSM will transition to Phase 2 sampling beginning March 29th. Phase 2 is characterized by the use of 20mm nets like those used by CDFW (rather than the Kodiak trawl nets used in Phase 1) towed at the surface (rather than obliquely). Phase 2 will cover the core six strata (i.e., Sacramento Deepwater Shipping Channel, Cache Slough, Lower Sacramento River, Lower San Joaquin River, Suisun Marsh, and Suisun Bay). USFWS will provide a memo outlining the Phase 2 approach.

CDFW provided a salvage update (March 9nd to 15th).

- No adult or larval DS were salvaged.
- One LFS (22 mm) was salvaged at the SWP, on March 15th. The expanded salvage number for this event is two LFS.
- There were several outages at the pumping facilities:
 - At the SWP, there was no export starting at noon on March 11th through March 14th.
 - At the CVP, there was no export starting at 2pm on March 12 through noon on March 13th.

USBR shared water quality data [three-station average daily water temperature as of March 15th was 12.8° C; daily average turbidity at Old River at Bacon Island (OBI) was 3.64 FNU and is currently 1.8 FNU; and the seven-day weather forecast for Antioch is mostly sunny to cloudy today with a chance of rain Wednesday through Friday, with a total of 0.25 to 0.5 inches anticipated. X2 is > 82 km; the estimated Sacramento River X2 is 83.9 km and the estimated San Joaquin River X2 is 83.6 km.

PART 2: Open Discussion on Species Status (Structured-Unstructured Time)

CDFW noted that SLS 5 detected a LFS at Station 716, triggering Condition 8.12; therefore, the hard trigger for export restrictions for the Barker Slough Pumping Plant was satisfied.

Condition 8.4.2 remains in effect, triggered by SLS 5 and 6, so SMT members discussed whether last week's recommendation of maintaining an OMRI no more negative than -2,500 cfs to protect LFS in the Central Delta is still warranted or whether it should be off-ramped. To inform the conversation, DWR provided a new PTM run which included a -2,500 cfs OMRI scenario and a base case, which reflects the highest export scenario anticipated by this week's Outlook.⁴ The PTM's base case includes two days of -2,500 cfs OMRI, since the SMT's recommendation would not be lifted until Wednesday's WOMT and then anticipates a rise toward -3,500 cfs OMRI. The average OMRI represented by the base case is -3,000 cfs for Week 1 and -2,900 cfs over the entire three-week run, with the acknowledgement that certainty decreases substantially after the first week. Input included:

- CDFW noted that SLS 6 detected LFS at all three stations used in the PTM run (nine LFS at Station 809, two at Station 812, and five at Station 901), so all are relevant this week. Both hydrologic scenarios appear protective of fish in the lower San Joaquin River, but CDFW noted that the particles at Station 901 in the OMR corridor are more susceptible to entrainment and that for them, there is a difference (nine percent) between -2,500 cfs and the base case by week three in terms of projected entrainment in the projects.
- CDFW noted that SLS 6 detected more larvae at Station 901 than seen in past weeks. CDFW added that while there is a good sense of larval distribution, there are also older fish in the system (evidenced by one LFS salvaged in the last week and another earlier in the month) that SLS does not adequately sample.
- USFWS stated that given the uncertain amount of precipitation this week, it is not clear how much more positive QWEST may move, which does not allow much room for relaxing the OMR recommendation.
- CDFW asked Reclamation to report the Stockton weather forecast going forward given that the Stockton conditions are what operators use for their operations planning.
- DWR observed that OMRI over the past two weeks has averaged around -700 cfs. Despite those more positive values, the fish continue to move into the OMR corridor, and the PTM does not show much difference in terms of where particles end up based on the OMRI, so it is not clear that a less negative OMRI is providing much benefit. The goal for the previous advice was to improve outcomes in the northern OMR corridor. For the fish at 901, it is not clear whether the lower OMRI is benefitting them or just delaying their eventual entrainment. DWR suggested a recommendation of no more negative than -3,500 cfs OMRI since that appears to be protective of fish in the lower San Joaquin River.
- CDFW questioned what level of justification is needed for the SMT's recommendation; i.e., to recommend -2,500 cfs, does the SMT need to establish that -2,500 cfs OMRI will push fish out from Station 901 to exit the OMR corridor? Or just that it will reduce risk of entrainment in the next seven days? What kind of evidence is needed to prove it is effective?
 - USFWS asked what field evidence the SMT could consider to evaluate the impacts of increasing the OMRI recommendation.

⁴ This contrasts with prior PTM runs in which the base case was a "middle ground" guess of what operations were anticipated to look like. The new approach is designed to provide insight on the highest risk scenario, so that recommendations can be calibrated down from that point.

- USFWS asked the SMT to consider why the entrainment risk at Station 901 is so different from that at Station 809 and 812. There seems to be some hydrodynamic pattern occurring that may require further understanding. USFWS acknowledged that they cannot run an experiment to determine what would have occurred if OMRIs had been higher than -2,500 cfs over the past two weeks, so they cannot say definitively whether the advice has benefited fish. However, the SMT's aim is to minimize entrainment losses. Protection may be particularly important in a dry year.
- CDFW pointed out that there have been two LFS salvaged at the facilities, 3 larval detections at the CVP, and 1 larval detection at the SWP. Qualitative larval detection started earlier this year, so the periods are not necessarily comparable, but last year, once larval detections started, they steadily increased, followed by increased salvage. In contrast, this year the detections have been sporadic suggesting LFS may not be present in numbers large enough to be detected regularly.
 - CDFW suggested that the burden of proof should not be on proving advice is effective given that there is not a replicate. With an increase in fish density at Station 901 and continued salvage, there is evidence of more fish in the upper corridor; therefore, risk has not changed substantially so there is no reason to relax the advice.
 - In addition, CDFW noted that if the SMT is using salvage counts as a type of monitoring, the outages at the facilities resulted in a smaller sampling window which could have artificially reduced numbers.
- SMT members agreed to continue last week's advice, given that the risk identified previously is still present. SLS 6 triggered Condition of Approval 8.4.2 again and with higher densities of fish in the entrainment zone than seen previously; improved hydrologic conditions would be needed to justify decreased risk.

SMT members discussed whether another PTM run would be beneficial and determined that DWR will conduct a run if this week's storm results in a substantial change in hydrology and proposed operations.

SMT members discussed how current conditions may affect the risk of entrainment and distribution of DS.

- USBR asked if the upcoming precipitation is likely to cause changes in turbidity. Based on the conversation, USBR's understanding is that the impacts of the storm are uncertain, but they have not seen any wind information that suggests it will be a driving force in terms of turbidity. The SMT concurred.
- USBR asked what turbidity information the SMT will need to inform decisions during the larval protection period for DS. Last year, USBR was generating a graphic of secchi depths occurring during sampling.
 - CDFW suggested relying primarily on the DWR Delta Turbidity Reports.
 - USBR will continue to include those reports in the PA Assessments.
 - USFWS suggested that there may be fewer turbidity events >12 NTU over time given the long-term turbidity decline in the system, so it would be prudent to establish standards to identify turbidity events/patterns that may not exceed the PA threshold but still could be an important indicator/trigger for DS entrainment. USFWS will distribute an analysis examining the relationship between turbidity levels and occurrence of spawning DS that could be informative.⁵

⁵ The analysis was based on the average frequency of subadult-adult Delta Smelt per SKT tow at Jersey Point and Prisoners Point in winter-early spring 2014-16. When turbidities reached 8 NTU or higher, an increased occurrence of spawners in those areas was more likely relative to lower turbidities. This could be potentially

PART 3: Live-edit Assessments

ITP Longfin Smelt Risk Assessment

CDFW updated the ITP assessment based on the discussion documented in Part 2 above.

Proposed Action Weekly Evaluation of Delta Smelt, including Distribution, Abiotic Conditions, Risk Assessment Questions, and Executive Summary

USBR reviewed updates to the assessment, which largely focused on the latest detection data and anticipated changes in conditions (including turbidity, OMR Index, and QWEST values). Edits to the assessment included:

- A statement in the turbidity section noting that precipitation may elevate turbidity, but it is not expected to reach the 12 NTU/FNU threshold.
- A clarification on how the DWR tool calculates estimated X2 values above 81 km.

The group reviewed the relevant assessment questions: (1) Between December 1 and January 31, has any first flush condition been exceeded? (2) Do DS have a high risk of migration and dispersal into areas at high risk of future entrainment? (3) Has a spent female DS been collected? (4) If OMR of -2,000 cfs does not reduce daily average OBI turbidity below 12 NTU/FNU, what OMR target is deemed protective between -2,000 and -5,000 cfs? (5) If daily average OBI turbidity is greater than 12 NTU/FNU, what do other station locations show? (6) If daily average OBI is greater than 12 NTU/FNU, is a turbidity bridge avoidance action not warranted? What is the supporting information? (7) After March 15 and if QWEST is negative, are larval or juvenile DS within the entrainment zone of the CVP and SWP pumps based on surveys? (8) Based on real-time spatial distribution of DS and currently available turbidity information, should OMR be managed to no more negative than -3,500? (9) What do hydrodynamic models, informed by EDSM or other relevant data, suggest the estimated percentage of larval and juvenile DS that could be entrained may be?

- The responses to questions one, two, three, four, five, and six were updated to reflect the latest dates and data.
- The response to question five noted that precipitation may elevate turbidity.
- The response to question seven was drafted, stating that *“As of 3/16/21, QWEST is negative but is expected to be positive depending on the amount of precipitation over the next seven-day period. No larval or juvenile Delta Smelt have been observed in the South Delta as of 3/16/2021.”*
- The response to question eight was drafted, stating that *“Delta Smelt are unlikely to be present in the South Delta based on limited detection information this season, and turbidity in the South Delta remains low across most stations (See Attachment B) and there do not appear to be any widespread increases as of 3/16/21. The OMR index range is between -800 cfs and -3500 cfs for the next seven says and will be protective. This pattern is expected to continue, and there is no expected need to manage OMR to no more negative than -3,500 cfs.”*
- The response to question nine was drafted, stating that *“With no detection data on DS larvae to inform hydrodynamic models, the SMT cannot estimate the percentage of larval and juvenile entrainment.”*

USBR reviewed updates to the Executive Summary:

useful to relate to subsequent detection of yolk sac larvae. Depending on temperature this may begin to happen about 8 to 13 days after egg fertilization (Bennett 2005, p 15). <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0725n5vk>.

- The SMT removed language mentioning wind velocity impacts since wind is not anticipated to play a key role in turbidity this week.
- The SMT removed language stating that turbidity at OBI could reach 12 NTU/FNU in the coming week, since prior precipitation has not caused a turbidity spike of that size and this storm is anticipated to be relatively small.

No non-consensus issues were identified.

Additional Considerations/Discussion

Agencies reported no items for elevation to WOMT other than the recommendation Condition 8.12 remain in effect and that operations target an OMR Index no more negative than -2,500 cfs under Condition of Approval 8.4.2.