

United States Department of the Interior

Statement before the State Water Resources
Control Board
Review of the 1995 Delta Water Quality Control
Plan
Topic #5: Delta Outflow

January 12, 2005

X2 is important to provide fish protection

- Appropriate habitat must be present to support fish needs
- Meeting a 2 ppt salinity requirement
- Based on hydrologic conditions
- Provides adequate downstream flows to allow smelt to move downstream

Potential for conflict between two fishery objectives when meeting X2 standards

- Meeting X2 can cause upstream flow fluctuations
- Upstream temperature objectives can be impacted
- In-Delta fishery concerns

Past years challenges between upstream temperature requirements and X2 outflow

- Required five agencies in WOMT to discuss issue
- Reinitiation with NOAA Fisheries
- This is the first year operating under requirements of new 2004 OCAP BO's

Recommendation

- Support implementation of the Delta objectives (X2 Standards) as part of the WQCP
- X2 remains an important protection for Delta fishery resources
- When conflicts arise, five agencies meet to discuss conditions and develop operations to respond to the real-time situation
- Current conditions and fish distributions will be considered

Recommendation

- Agencies submit their plan to SWRCB, implement the recommendation, and provide annual report
- Flexibility is included in the 2004 OCAP BO's in the adaptive management section
- Will allow a quick response to real time fishery concerns