

Memorandum

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
California Department of Water Resources

Date: November 2, 2020

To: Requestors of cultured Delta Smelt originating from the University of California Davis Fish Conservation & Culture Laboratory from the 2021 year-class

From: Culture and Supplementation of Smelt Steering Committee

Subject: Process to request Delta Smelt from the University of California Davis Fish Conservation & Culture Laboratory from the 2021 year-class

In October 2019, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the California Department of Water Resources established the Culture and Supplementation of Smelt (CASS) Steering Committee (SC); a charter is available upon request. The purpose of the CASS SC is to implement science-based activities to secure and stabilize the wild Delta Smelt population through a coordinated propagation and supplementation program. To facilitate cooperative and consensus-driven recommendations to agencies, the CASS SC will receive guidance from working groups charged with providing technical guidance concerning: (1) Captive Propagation (CPWG), (2) Research (RWG), and (3) Regulation Coordination (RCWG).

The CASS SC identified an early need for improved documentation and prioritization of the usage of cultured Delta Smelt propagated at the University of California Davis Fish Conservation & Culture Laboratory (FCCL) for optimal information gain and high management relevance. To this end, the CASS SC has established a process for soliciting, evaluating, and approving requests of cultured Delta Smelt from the 2021 year-class. Before undertaking a study that incorporates cultured Delta Smelt, requestors must submit the Cultured Delta Smelt 2021 year-class Request Form (see attached) and any additional documentation. All Cultured Delta Smelt Request Forms requesting certain parental crosses (typically for domestication indexes) or non-adult life stages will be submitted to the FCCL by Dec 1, 2020. Adult fish may also be requested at this time as well. A second request deadline for adult fish only (greater than 200 days post hatch) **without** specific domestication indexes will be due Mar. 1, 2021. Requests made for either deadline must be submitted to the director of the FCCL, Dr. Tien-Chieh Hung at thung@ucdavis.edu.

The approval or rejection of a request made by the Dec. 1, 2020 deadline will be completed by Feb. 15, 2021. Requests submitted by the Mar. 1, 2021 will be approved or rejected by May 15, 2021. Packages will be reviewed and prioritized by the CPWG, RWG, and RCWG and each working group will provide a recommendation as to whether to approve or deny the request to the SC. Requestors may be contacted by the working groups to schedule a question and answer session if there are questions or concerns about the request.

***Please note, this process assumes that requestors of cultured Delta Smelt from the 2021 year-class have already obtained authorization to perform all study activities under (1) a USFWS 10(a)1(A) recovery permit, and (2) a CDFW Memorandum of Understanding.

CULTURED DELTA SMELT 2021 YEAR-CLASS REQUEST FORM

Describe the proposed study by filling in the following sections (expected length is approximately 3-5 pages)

- a. Introduction and relevant background
- b. Project need
- c. Objectives
- d. Methods
 1. Describe the fish needed (minimum and maximum) for the proposed study; if more than one life stage is requested, describe ii – v for each life stage
 - i. Life stage (approximate range)
 - ii. Number
 - iii. Sex (if applicable)
 - iv. Other (e.g., desired number of families or domestication index)
 - v. Date needed
 2. Describe the study location (if applicable)
 3. Describe the study design
 4. Describe the experimental techniques and equipment
 5. Describe the planned disposition of fish specimens upon completion of the study
- e. Study timeline
- f. Anticipated results
- g. Redundancy
 1. Describe how the project will answer questions not answered by earlier research
 2. Explain how the proposed project will be coordinated with past and ongoing research studies
- h. Management implications
 1. Describe how the study will help recover the species; identify recovery plan tasks by number and name, if applicable
 2. Describe how the study will inform Delta Smelt population supplementation; identify biological opinion tasks by number and name, if applicable

i. Funding

1. Identify contracts and agreements held for the proposed study (attach copy or give title, funding organization name and address, date of signature, and duration of contract)
2. State whether full funding will be available for the completion of the proposed activity

j. Permitting

1. Have this study been authorized under (1) a USFWS 10(a)1(A) recovery permit, and (2) a CDFW MOU. YES ___ NO ___
2. If yes, provide permit numbers.
3. Would a change/addition in the List of Authorized individuals under (1) a USFWS 10(a)1(A) recovery permit be needed? YES ___ NO ___

k. Communication plan

1. Describe how study results will be communicated to management agencies and the public (e.g., provide contact information for agency office that will receive final report study findings or describe intent to publish in a peer-reviewed journal).
2. Propose tentative date for submission for reports or publications.

l. Literature cited