

Weighting:

The delta smelt Team considered weighting scores but after consideration of the final matrices decided it was not necessary to apply explicit weighting factors. Most of the diversion effects on delta smelt are related to hydrodynamics. The hydrodynamics scores reflect the negative effects of holding fish in the Delta for longer than would occur under “natural” conditions. Those effects are generally unspecified but might include exposure to toxics, predation, or low food availability in addition to the explicitly identified “direct” effects of entrainment on fish that the altered hydrodynamics have delivered to the pumps. A form of weighting does occur when the Team altered scores for some of the indirect effects, such as in-Delta predation, in response to changes in water sources, withdrawals, or patterns of movement. These alterations were made with the realization that the ultimate effect was hydrodynamic but that there was a major change in the secondary effect that deserved recognition in the matrix.