



Delta Action Team (DAT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 2/24/26 at 10:00 a.m.

Participants

- BKS Law Firm
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)
- Friends of the River
- Kearns & West (K&W)
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)
- Mono Lake Committee
- San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA)
- State Water Contractors (SWC)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Westlands Water District (WWD)

Welcome & Housekeeping

- None.

Weekly Operations Update

Operational Intent

- None.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations

- DAT reviewed and updated the Fish and Water Operations Outlook document.
 - Sacramento River releases at Keswick Dam are currently at 5,800 cfs and will range between 4,000 cfs and 10,000 cfs.
 - Feather River releases are currently at 10,000 cfs and will range between 10,000 cfs and 15,000 cfs. Releases will be adjusted according to storm impacts.
 - American River releases at Nimbus Dam are 5,000 cfs and will range between 3,500 cfs to 5,000 cfs.
 - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently 400 cfs and will range between 200 cfs and 600 cfs.
 - Freeport flows are currently at 50,600 cfs and will range between 50,000 cfs and 70,000 cfs.
 - Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 5,400 cfs and will range between 4,000 cfs and 5,400 cfs.
 - Delta outflow is currently at 55,700 cfs and will range between 45,000 cfs and 70,000 cfs.
 - Rio Vista flows are currently at 44,200 cfs and will range between 40,000 cfs and 60,000 cfs.
 - San Luis total storage is currently 1.69 MAF, SWP's share is 1,045 TAF and CVP's is 659 TAF (68%).
 - Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) exports are 4,200 cfs.
 - JPF will range between 9,000 cfs to 15,000 cfs.
 - Daily QWEST is at 9,400 cfs and seven-day average is 16,873 cfs.
 - Expected Daily OMR Index is -5,000 cfs. Expected five-day OMR average is -4,900 cfs, and the 14-day average is -4,500 cfs.

Questions/Discussions on Weekly Fish and Water Operations

- WWD asked whether SWP expects to use storage space allocated to CVP at San Luis Reservoir, given that SWPs storage is already close to its limit.
 - DWR responded that potential changes to storage allocation are still being evaluated.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Species Tables Updates

- DWR updated Table 3a and provided an overview to date

- Genetic analysis confirmed that two late-fall winter-run Chinook salmon salvaged on 2/21 and 2/22 at the CVP are winter-run; the confirmed annual loss has been updated to 8.72.
- A total of three winter-run Chinook salmon have been genetically confirmed at the Delta fish facilities to date. Loss values of clipped winter-run Chinook salmon under Item 8.4.4 have been updated; the seven-day rolling sum is 5.20 based on newly confirmed winter-run genetic results.
- Additional spring-run surrogate Chinook salmon from release Group 3 were identified, bringing the total loss to 35.08, which remains below the threshold.

Questions/Discussions on Operations Outlook Species Tables Updates

- None.

Proposed Action Assessments

Proposed Action Assessments Update

- Reclamation presented the weekly combined assessment.

Zone of Influence

- This week, both current and 7-day forecasted delta hydrology fall in the 'hihi' (high-high) category.

Salmonid Proposed Action Assessment

- Cumulative annual loss to date included:
 - 4 natural winter-run Chinook salmon, representing the current annual loss total.
 - 0 hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon, representing the current annual loss total
 - 107 natural steelhead, representing the current annual loss total.
 - 691 hatchery steelhead, representing the current annual loss total.
 - 1,046 spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates, representing the current annual loss total.
- Spring-run surrogate losses by release group include:
 - 0 in Group 1
 - 257 in Group 2
 - 30 in Group 3

- Length-at-date winter-run Chinook salmon presence remains high based on historical monitoring data, along with continued Central Valley steelhead presence in the Delta.
- Estimated probabilities based on STARS modeling include:
 - Presence probability of 0.
 - Entrainment probability of 0.28–0.30
 - Routing probability of 0.12
- Modeled loss projections for winter-run Chinook salmon and steelhead indicate low to medium predicted loss and reserved loss.
- Overall risk remains low for natural winter-run Chinook salmon, hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon, spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates, natural steelhead, and hatchery steelhead.

EAS and CESA Osmerids Proposed Action Assessment

Delta Smelt

- Status updates included:
 - 36 adult Delta smelt and 29 juvenile Delta smelt observed.
 - 0 Delta smelt salvaged this water year.
 - The most recent non-zero abundance estimate was 4,983, from the week of February 9-13, 2026.
 - All cultured Delta smelt releases for Water Year 2026 have been completed, and no additional releases are planned.
- The adult Delta smelt entrainment protection action was off-ramped on February 12, and no adult entrainment action has been implemented during Water Year 2026.
- Larval and juvenile Delta smelt protection triggers have not been met, as JPF remains above 0 CFS and average South Delta turbidity (5.7 FNU) remains below the 12 FNU threshold.
- Based on historical monitoring data, Delta smelt larvae are typically observed beginning in mid- to late March.
- Particle tracking modeling (see Appendix A in assessment) indicates low entrainment risk across OMRI levels for Delta smelt larvae, including under potential storm flex conditions.

Longfin Smelt

- Status updates included:

- longfin smelt have been detected across multiple surveys this water year.
- 0 adults salvaged to date.
- Adult and larval longfin smelt entrainment protection thresholds have not been met, as JPF remains above 0 CFS.
- Particle tracking and zone of influence modeling indicate low risk of larval entrainment at the export facilities.
- Modeled larval entrainment losses are estimated to range from less than 0.1% to approximately 0.2 to 0.3% of the larval longfin smelt population, for OMRI of -5,000 and -6,500 cfs, respectively.
- Additional survey data sent this morning (2/24) will be incorporated into the final assessment.

Real-time Assessment Thresholds

- None.

Questions/Discussions on Proposed Action Assessments

- DWR asked whether storm flex operational flexibilities remained available after 2/1 and spawning temperature thresholds had been reached.
 - Reclamation clarified that under Action 5, storm flex operational flexibilities remain available until the larval and juvenile Delta smelt protection action is triggered, which has not yet occurred in WY26.

Open Discussion

OMR Guidance Document Development Update

Reclamation provided an update on the OMR Guidance Document development and upcoming review efforts.

- Guidance Document Status:
 - Review of the OMR Guidance Document is ongoing, and initial comments have been received. Additional comments are expected as participants complete their review.
 - Reclamation noted that recent storm flex discussions highlighted the need to compare state and federal operational requirements and will begin reviewing Action 5 and corresponding state requirements.
- Upcoming DAT Guidance Document Update Meeting (2/26):
 - The next guidance document meeting is scheduled for 2/26 and will include a brief recap of submitted comments and focus on technical review of real-time assessment tools.

- Contra Costa has developed an initial draft comparison table of Action 5 and state operational triggers, which will be presented for technical review and feedback.
- Participants were encouraged to review the previously distributed Assessment Tool Descriptions document in advance of the meeting.

Action Items

- The next Delta Action Team Meeting is on 3/3/26