



Delta Action Team (DAT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 3/3/26 at 10:00 a.m.

Participants

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)
- Friant Water Authority (FWA)
- Kearns & West (K&W)
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)
- 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)

Action Items

- USBR will follow up on the status of Clear Creek updates by Monday (3/9).

Welcome & Housekeeping

Reminder to use the process below when making updates to meeting materials:

- Turn on Track Changes for all edits.
- Capture unconfirmed items in comment boxes instead of revising the main text.
- If editing as a guest, please include your name in the comments.

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 5,000 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 6,000 cfs and 10,000 cfs. Releases will be adjusted according to storm impacts.
 - American River releases at Nimbus Dam are 2,850 cfs and will range between 1,000 cfs to 2,850 cfs.
 - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently 200 cfs.
 - Freeport flows are currently at 63,000 cfs and will range between 35,000 cfs and 65,000 cfs.
 - Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 4,500 cfs and will range between 3,000 cfs and 4,500 cfs.
 - Vernalis flows are currently at 6,800 cfs and will range between 5,000 cfs and 7,000 cfs.
 - Delta outflow is currently at 71,500 cfs and will range between 35,000 cfs and 75,000 cfs.
 - Rio Vista flows are currently at 62,100 cfs and will range between 30,000 cfs and 65,000 cfs.
 - San Luis total storage is currently 1.73 MAF, SWP's share is 1,049 TAF and CVP's is 688 TAF (71%).
 - Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) exports are 4,200 cfs.
 - JPF will range between 7,000 cfs to 10,000 cfs.
 - Daily QWEST is at 9,946 cfs and seven-day average is 8,670 cfs. Forecasted seven-day range will be between 6,000 cfs to 9,000 cfs.
 - Expected Daily OMR Index is -4,900 cfs. Expected five-day OMR average is -5,000 cfs, and the 14-day average is -4,900 cfs.

Questions/Discussions on Weekly Fish and Water Operations

- WWD asked whether the 21-day Port Chicago trigger shown in DWR reporting, including two carryover days from February, is consistent with how both projects

are operating and whether the two carryover days are determined using the three-day average Net Delta Outflow Index.

- DWR mentioned that the 21-day value aligns with current expectations but remains an estimate because the official Eight River Index has not yet been released and it is not currently controlling operations. DWR also noted that the carryover days are based on the three-day average Net Delta Outflow Index; because the standard begins in February, the first two days are evaluated using the three-day average through 2/3.
- SLDMWA asked for an updated estimate of trigger days given PMI uncertainty—specifically whether the outlook is closer to 20 days or potentially less—and whether a 20-day March requirement, if dry conditions persist, would pose operational concerns given the recent decline in Port Chicago’s 14-day average.
 - DWR mentioned that CNRFC estimates placed the index near 2.6 during the final days of February, which corresponds to approximately 19–21 trigger days (19 days at 2.5 and 21 days at 2.75). The final number will depend on the official value released in the coming days.
 - DWR said the operational outlook is uncertain, noting that operations should hold for some time, but it is unclear whether they will extend past 20 days if dry conditions continue.
- MWD asked for clarification on whether carryover days will be required.
 - DWR confirmed that two carryover days are anticipated because the three-day average DOI evaluation on 2/3 brings 2/1-2/2 into the count, and with 26 days required in a 28-day month, the remaining two days carry over.
- USBR noted there have been no updates received on Clear Creek and will follow up again by next Monday (3/9).

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Species Tables Updates

- DWR updated Table 3a and provided an overview to date.
 - See Table 3a in this week’s [Fish and Operations Outlook](#)

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 cumulative annual loss
 - 0 hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon cumulative annual loss
 - 164 natural steelhead cumulative annual loss
 - 828 hatchery steelhead cumulative annual loss
 - Spring-run surrogate yearling Chinook salmon. Group 1: 0 (0% of 376 ITL); Group 2: 257 (84.64% of 304 ITL); Group 3: 35 (12.26% of 286 ITL)
- Steelhead presence remains high based on historical monitoring.
- Length-at-date winter-run Chinook salmon presence remains high based on historical monitoring.
- Estimated probabilities based on STARS modeling include:
 - Survival probability of approximately 0.6
 - Apparent survival probability between 0.25 and 0.35
 - Apparent routing probability between 0.11 and 0.15
- An Eco-PTM particle tracker model developed by Stantec was incorporated with particles injected at Freeport on the Sacramento River from 2/24 through 3/16 to evaluate survival and transport conditions.
- Modeled loss projections for winter-run Chinook salmon and steelhead indicate low to medium predicted loss and salvage levels.
- 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.

ESA and CESA Osmerids Proposed Action Assessment

Delta Smelt

- Status updates included:
 - Delta smelt remain in the adult and juvenile life stages.
 - A total of 70 Delta smelt have been detected this water year in surveys, including 40 adults and 30 juveniles.

- Recent EDSM detections included three adults and one juvenile 2/25 and one adult detected the following day, all at Suisun Marsh.
- The updated DSM abundance estimate is 9,901 as of the week of 2/23.
- JPF remains less than 0; therefore, larval and juvenile Delta smelt actions are not triggered.
- The most recent 12-station turbidity measurement was 5.7 FNU as of February 11.
- Additional PTM modeling was incorporated into the third evaluation question neutrally buoyant particles injected at Chipps Island and Cache Slough to evaluate potential StormFlex scenarios.
- Modeling results indicate zero entrainment at the CVP and SWP for particles injected at Chipps Island across modeled OMR conditions.
- Low entrainment levels were observed for particles injected at Cache Slough, indicating minimal entrainment risk.

Longfin Smelt

- Status updates included:
 - Longfin smelt detections to date include 413 adults, 972 juveniles, and 1,776 larvae.
- JPF remains less than 0 and no actions are triggered.
- Population-based PTM modeling indicates that if a StormFlex action were implemented, projected entrainment would remain low relative to estimated abundance, approximately 1.3% of the population at OMR –6,500 and slightly lower at –5,000.
- Two-week projections remain low at approximately 1.7% at OMR –6,500 and 1.2% at OMR –5,000, remaining below levels associated with significant population decline.
- Appendix A with detailed PTM modeling outputs continues to be included in the weekly biological assessment.

Real-time Assessment Thresholds

- None

Questions/Discussions on Proposed Action Assessments

- None