



## **Delta Action Team (DAT) Weekly Meeting**

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

### **Participants**

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)
- Friant Water Authority (FWA)
- Friends of the River
- 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**

- None

### **Welcome & Housekeeping**

- None

# Weekly Operations Update

## Operational Intent

- USBR and DWR both operating to OMRI -5,000 cfs.

## 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 4,000 cfs.
  - Oroville storage is 2,996 MAF as of 3/10/26. Feather River releases are currently at 9,000 cfs and will range between 7,000 cfs to 9,000 cfs.
  - American River releases at Nimbus Dam are currently at 2,500 cfs.
  - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently at 200 cfs.
  - Freeport flows are currently at 40,656 cfs and will range between 30,000 cfs and 41,000 cfs.
  - Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 3,700 cfs and will range between 3,000 cfs and 3,700 cfs.
  - Vernalis flows are currently at 5,200 cfs and will range between 4,000 cfs and 5,200 cfs.
  - Delta outflow is currently at 40,400 cfs and will range between 30,000 cfs and 42,000 cfs.
  - Rio Vista flows are currently at 36,200 cfs and will range between 28,000 cfs and 38,000 cfs.
  - San Luis total storage is currently 1.77 MAF, SWP's share is 1,062 TAF and CVP's is 715 TAF (74%).
  - Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) exports are 4,200 cfs.
  - JPF will range between 2,500 cfs to 6,000 cfs.
  - Daily QWEST is at 4,946 cfs and seven-day average is 7,165 cfs. Forecasted seven-day range will be between 3,000 cfs to 7,200 cfs.
  - Expected Daily OMR Index is -4,800 cfs. Expected five-day OMR average is -4,900 cfs, seven-day average is -4,900 cfs and the 14-day average is -4,900 cfs.

## Questions/Discussions on Weekly Fish and Water Operations

- DWR confirmed with Reclamation that the moon is currently waning, which indicates a shift from spring to neap tides.

- SLDMWA asked about the required X2 days at Chipps Island for March, and whether Reclamation is concerned about meeting the remaining days given current water quality trends, or whether there is sufficient momentum to reach compliance.
  - Reclamation said the requirement is 19 days this month, reflecting 21 days with two carryover days. Reclamation noted they hope current conditions support meeting the remaining days and will continue monitoring in case conditions change.
- Spring, fall, and late-fall run entries were updated to include cutoff dates.

### **Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Species Tables Updates**

- DWR updated Table 3a and provided an overview to date.
  - Loss numbers remain unchanged. Several Length at Date (LAD) winter-run were later determined not to be winter-run. One LAD winter-run salvaged yesterday at CVP is undergoing rapid genetic testing, with results pending.
  - 7-day rolling sum remains unchanged. The value was 22.52 on 3/9/26 and is currently 0 pending genetic confirmation of the salvaged fish.
  - No clipped fish have been observed at either facility since the last report.

### ***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
  - 8 hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon cumulative annual loss
  - 182 natural steelhead cumulative annual loss
  - 1,087 hatchery steelhead cumulative annual loss
  - Please note the cumulative annual loss numbers provided during the Delta Action Team Call and noted above are inaccurate due to a database issue. This problem is being looked in to.

- 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:
  - Overall apparent survival probability ranged from 0.53-0.62
  - Interior Delta routing apparent survival probability ranged from 0.26 to 0.44.
  - Interior Delta route probability ranged from 0.10 to 0.13.
- ECO PTM from StantecECO results cover the 03/02–03/22 evaluation period, based on fish released 02/03 at Sacramento River at Freeportn, with routing ratio and survival evaluated over a three-week period.
- Overall risk remains low for winter-run, spring-run Chinook-salmon, and steelhead.

## **ESA and CESA Osmerids**

### **Proposed Action Assessment**

#### ***Delta Smelt***

- Current life stages include juveniles and adults.
- Most recent abundance estimate was 1,487 during the week of 03/02.
- A total of 72 Delta smelt have been detected this water year in surveys, including 42 adults and 30 juveniles.
- First salvage occurred 03/06, bringing cumulative seasonal salvage to 4.
- Most recent EDSM detections included one adult at Suisun Marsh on 03/09
- 12-station turbidity measured 12.5 FNU, but JPF remains above 0, so larval and juvenile action criteria are not met.
- No Delta smelt larvae have been captured in SLS surveys in WY26 to date.
- PTM modeling for particles released at Chipps Island showed 0% entrainment at both facilities for the next week, indicating low risk if larvae were present.

#### ***Longfin Smelt***

- Current life stages include larval, juvenile, and adult.
- Detections to date include 442 adults, 1,022 juveniles, and 4,749 larvae.
- No longfin smelt salvage has occurred.
- Adult action criteria are not met because JPF remains above 0 and salvage is far below the 5% regulatory threshold.

- For larval and juvenile longfin, JPF is not expected to drop below 0 this week, and modeling indicates minimal differences across OMRI scenarios.
- Population-based PTM results project very low larval entrainment (~0.1% at OMRI -6,500 and <0.1% for other scenarios), remaining well below levels associated with population concern.
- Appendix A with the modeling results will be included in the final biological assessment.

#### ***Questions/Discussions on Proposed Action Assessments***

- None

#### **Next DAT Meeting**

- The next Delta Action Team Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 3/17/26.