



Delta Action Team (DAT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 3/17/26 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)
- 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

- DWR is tracking progress toward meeting the Port Chicago 14-day average electrical conductivity (EC) over the next 62 hours. If requirement is not met exports will be affected, including outflow at Clifton Court.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations

- DAT reviewed and updated the Fish and Water Operations Outlook document.
 - Clear Creek releases at Whiskey Town are currently at 275 cfs and will be maintained at this level.
 - Sacramento River releases at Keswick Dam are currently at 4,000 cfs and will be maintained at this level. Storage is increasing slowly.
 - Oroville storage is 3.013 MAF as of the evening of 3/16. Feather River releases are currently at 6,500 cfs and will be reduced to 5,500 cfs later today. Releases will range between 5,500 cfs to 9,000 cfs.
 - American River releases at Nimbus Dam are currently at 2,500 cfs and will be reduced to 2,200 cfs on 3/19. Releases will range between 2,000 cfs and 2,500 cfs.
 - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently at 200 cfs.
 - Freeport flows are currently at 26,700 cfs and will range between 23,000 cfs and 31,000 cfs.
 - Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 3,400 cfs and will range between 300 cfs and 3,400 cfs.
 - Vernalis flows are currently at 4,900 cfs and will range between 4,700 cfs and 5,100 cfs.
 - Delta outflow is currently at 24,000 cfs and will range between 20,000 cfs and 30,000 cfs.
 - Rio Vista flows are currently at 20,200 cfs and will range between 19,000 cfs and 23,000 cfs.
 - San Luis total storage is currently 1.81 MAF, SWP's share is 1.59 TAF and CVP's is 746 TAF.
 - JPP exports are at 4,200 cfs, with an 800 cfs reduction range in case the Port Chicago EC requirement is not met by 3/19.
 - JPF will range between 1,500 cfs to 2,300 cfs.

- Daily QWEST is at 2,421 cfs and seven-day average is 3,196 cfs. Forecasted seven-day range will be between 1,400 cfs to 3,200 cfs.
- Expected Daily OMR Index is -4,600 cfs. Expected five-day OMR average is -4,900 cfs, and the 14-day average is -4,900 cfs.

Questions/Discussions on Weekly Fish and Water Operations

- CCWD requested an update on the status of meeting Port Chicago’s EC requirement on 3/19.
 - DWR confirmed the Port Chicago EC requirement is expected to be met by 3/19, which includes two carryover days from February.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Species Tables Updates

- DWR updated Table 3a and provided an overview to date.
 - Three of the Length at Date (LAD) spring run Chinook salmon were salvaged recently and were genetically confirmed as winter-run. DWR is still awaiting genetic result from 3/14 LAD and will share it with the DAT group once available.
 - Confirmed genetic winter-run annual loss is 43.1, including the three winter-run salvaged.
 - Battle Creek recorded its first winter-run salvage. Total loss is now 2.33, nearing 50% of the 6.22 threshold, and is being closely monitored.
 - Numerous clipped fish have been observed at Central Valley Project (CVP) facilities and a few at State Water Project facilities.

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

- Current and 7-day forecasted delta hydrology fall in the ‘medhi’ (medium-high) category.

Salmonid Proposed Action Assessment

- As of 3/15, cumulative annual losses include 42.83 natural winter-run; 58 hatchery winter-run; 208 natural steelhead; and 1,315 hatchery steelhead
- Steelhead presence remains high based on historical monitoring.

- LAD winter-run Chinook salmon presence remains high based on historical monitoring.
- STARS estimated overall apparent survival probability ranged from 0.39-0.49,
- STARS estimated routing .1 to .14 and apparent survival probability ranged from .12 to .29 respectively
- ECO PTM results evaluation period from 03/10/2026 to 03/22/2026 with particles injected on 03/10/2026 at Sacramento River at Freeport.
- Overall evaluation shows low risk of exceeding loss thresholds in the upcoming week for natural and hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon, steelhead, and spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates.

ESA and CESA Osmerids

Proposed Action Assessment

- No actions at risk of being triggered.

Delta Smelt

- Current life stages include juveniles and adults.
- Delta smelt are currently at the adult life stage.
- Abundance estimate for 3/9-3/13 was 2,004 (95% CL: 170–8,647).
- Delta smelt count for WY26 is 72 Delta smelt, including 42 adults and 30 juveniles.
- No Delta smelt detected since last week and cumulative seasonal salvage remains at 4, with only one salvaged on 03/06.
- Entrainment action was not triggered, as JPF remains above 0 cfs and turbidity is 11.2 FNU, below the 12 FNU threshold.

Longfin Smelt

- Longfin smelt are in the juvenile and adult life stages.
- Detections to date include 442 adults, 1,022 juveniles, and 4,749 larvae.
- No action criteria are met for either adult or larval longfin smelt, as JPF remains above 0, and no salvage has been observed for adults.
- Particle Tracking Model (PTM) results are attached in Appendix A of the combined assessment.

Questions/Discussions on Proposed Action Assessments

- None

Next DAT Meeting

- The next Delta Action Team Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 3/24/26.