



Delta Action Team (DAT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 3/31/26 at 10:00 a.m.

Participants

- Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)
- Friant Water Authority (FWA)
- Friends of the River
- Kearns & West (K&W)
- San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA)
- State Water Contractors (SWC)
- 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

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations

- DAT reviewed and updated the Fish and Water Operations Outlook document.
- State Water Project (SWP) updates were not discussed, as DWR was not in attendance in observance of the California state holiday.

- Sacramento River releases at Keswick Dam are currently at 4,000 cfs and will be maintained at this level.
- American River releases at Nimbus Dam are currently at 1,100 cfs and will be maintained at this level.
- Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently at 800 cfs and will be increased to 1,100 cfs on 3/31. Releases will range between 800 cfs to 1,100 cfs.
- Freeport flows were at 12,700 cfs on 3/30 and will be reduced through the week, reaching around 12,000 cfs on 4/1 and reducing further from 4/4 to 4/5.
- Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports will be reduced to 600 cfs on 4/1.
- Vernalis flows are currently at 1,848 cfs and will be increased to above 2,000 cfs.
- Delta outflow is currently 8,300 cfs and is expected to range from 7,000 to 12,000 cfs, with the upper end of the range set in case electrical conductivity (EC) at Chipps Island meets compliance threshold.
- JPP exports are at 3,500 cfs.
- JPF were at -1800 cfs on 3/30 and will increase to 23 cfs on 4/1 and to 90 cfs later in the week. Flows are expected to be maintained at 90 cfs before returning to negative levels.
- Expected Daily OMR Index is -4,800 cfs and will be reduced to -3,200.

Questions/Discussions on Weekly Fish and Water Operations

- SLDMWA asked about the estimated number of Chipps days required in April and whether the start date for the San Joaquin pulse period has been set.
 - USBR mentioned that the current estimate is 27 to 28 Chipps days, with an updated estimate to follow once Project Management Information (PMI) from B120 is available.
 - USBR noted that the tentative start date is 4/11.
- CCWD asked whether JPF are expected to reduce to -1,900 cfs.
 - USBR responded that JPF is not expected to approach -1,900 cfs. USBR also clarified that if pumping is reduced for Chipps days, JPF could turn positive again between 4/6 to 4/10.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Species Tables Updates

- None

Questions/Discussions on Operations Outlook Species Tables Updates

- USBR shared that the EDSM 20-mm monitoring survey began on 3/30.

Proposed Action Assessments

Proposed Action Assessments Update

- USBR presented the weekly combined assessment.

Zone of Influence

- Current delta hydrology falls in the 'lolo' (low-low) category, and 7-day forecasted conditions fall in the 'lomed' (low-medium) category.
- Change in altered channel length between OMR levels is 147 km for current conditions and 60 km for forecasted conditions, indicating a smaller zone of influence (ZOI) for forecasted conditions.

Salmonid Proposed Action Assessment

- As of 3/30, cumulative annual losses include 43 (0.40% of annual loss threshold) natural winter-run; 62 (4.78% of annual loss threshold) hatchery winter-run; 235 natural steelhead; and 1,634 (25.81 % of annual loss threshold) hatchery steelhead.
- LAD winter-run Chinook salmon presence remains high based on historical monitoring.
- STARS estimated overall apparent survival probability is .0 to .03 as of 3/29.
- STARS estimated routing and survival probabilities are .1 to .16 and .0 to .01 respectively.
- ECO PTM evaluation period is from 03/24 to 04/13 with particles injected on 03/24 at Sacramento River and at Freeport. ECO PTM evaluations exceed STARS projections, with routing into Georgiana Slough 30 percent higher and overall survival probability 50 percent higher.
- 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 are at risk of being triggered.

Delta Smelt

- Delta smelt have been detected at the adult life stage.
- Abundance estimate for 3/23-3/27 was 2,034 (95% CL: 162-8,959).

- Delta smelt count for WY26 is 74, including 44 adults and 30 juveniles.
- One Delta smelt has been salvaged to date, and cumulative seasonal salvage remains at 4.
- Two adult Delta smelt were detected in the last two weeks in Suisun Marsh.
- Adult Delta smelt entrainment action remains inactive, and no action was taken in WY2026.
- The large majority of Delta smelt recaptures continue to be from Suisun Marsh.
- Spawning is likely completed due to increased water temperatures, which is between 17° C to 18° C.
- Larval and juvenile Delta smelt entrainment action was not met. Although JPF is below 0 and is expected to fluctuate between negative and positive values, the 3/16 20-mm survey of 11 of the 12 stations recorded an average turbidity of 5.0 FNU, which remains below the 12 FNU threshold.
 - Twenty-mm survey 2 is underway and will provide an updated turbidity average, but turbidity is expected to stay about the same.
- Delta smelt entrainment risk is low, as PTM results from Chipps Island showed 0% particle entrainment at both facilities for all OMR levels.

Longfin Smelt

- Longfin smelt have been detected in the adult and juvenile life stages.
- Detections to date include 470 adults, 1,145 juveniles, and 5,472 larvae. Numerous larvae have been captured in monitoring surveys with updated counts expected on 3/31 or 4/1.
- No entrainment action criteria are met for either adult, or juvenile and larval longfin smelt, although JPF is below 0.
- No adult longfin smelt salvage has been observed in WY2026, which indicates annual loss is not on trajectory to approach the 5% regulatory threshold of 125 fish.
- PTM and zone of influence modeling indicate a low risk of entrainment for larval and juvenile longfin smelt population. Estimated entrainment remains <1% of the estimated larval population across all OMR scenarios (range from 0.6% at -6,500 cfs OMRI to ≤0.1% at -2,000 cfs OMRI), and the modeled hydrodynamic footprint does not extend into the western and far western areas where most larvae and juveniles have been detected.

Questions/Discussions on Proposed Action Assessments

- None

Next DAT Meeting

- The next Delta Action Team Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 4/7/26.