

Fish and Water Operations Group Notes

Water Year 2026 – May 13th, 2026

Members Attending

- Reclamation – ~~Randi Field, Levi Johnson~~ (Acting: Joshua Israel)
- DWR – Tracy Hinojosa, Bryant Giorgi
- USFWS – Matt Nobriga, Jana Affonso
- NMFS – Darren Howe
- ~~CDFW – Kristal Davis-Fadtke~~
- SWRCB – ~~Matthew Holland, Diane Riddle~~ (Acting: Craig Williams)
- NGO – ~~Ashley Overhouse~~, Devon Pearse
- ~~NOD PWA – Thaddeus Bettner, Jeff Sutton~~
- SOD PWA - Scott Petersen, Deanna Sereno
- State PWA - ~~Chandra Chilmakuri~~

Topics/Actions

Approval of Meeting Notes from last week: Approved

Upcoming Meetings

Delta Action Team (DAT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 05/19/2026

Drought Response Year (DRY) Team:

American River Group (ARG meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed):

Clear Creek Technical Team (CCT meets quarterly on third Thursday):

Sacramento River Group (SRG) (meets monthly on the fourth Thursday or more often as needed): 05/28/2026

Stanislaus Watershed Team (SWT meets monthly on third Wednesday):
05/20/2026

Annual Report Team

Shasta Operations Team (SHOT): met on 04/13/2026

Relevant Assessments

- 20260511 Combined Salmon and Smelt Assessment

- 20260510 Fish and Water Operations Outlook

Operational Updates

- CVP: Lewiston Dam releases at 1,150 cfs (Trinity ROD flows through early July). Whiskeytown Dam releases at 200 cfs (pulse flow planned to begin on 5/18). Keswick Dam releases at 8,500 cfs (increase on 5/14 to 9,000 cfs). Nimbus Dam releases at 3,500 cfs (storage management). Goodwin Dam releases at 1,800 cfs (increase on 5/14 to 2,000 cfs; end of D1641 31-day Vernalis 1:1 on 5/13; Vernalis Flow requirement on 5/14). Jones Pumping Plant exporting 900 cfs (increase on 5/14 to 3,400 cfs; OMRI -5,000). Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 771 TAF. Delta Cross Channel is closed (closed on 10/30/25; potential to open near Memorial Day).
- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases at 1,050 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay allotment is 600 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 868 TAF.
- Hydrology: General temperature warming trend with no rain in the forecast.

Upcoming Actions, Updates or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- DWR:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- USFWS:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Discussion: Brood-year assessment
- NMFS:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
 - ~~• No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.~~
- SWRCB:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Discussion: Upcoming balanced conditions in the Delta
- NGO:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Discussion: SRG draft TMP

- ~~NOD PWA:~~
 - ~~No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.~~
- SOD PWA:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- ~~State PWA:~~
 - ~~No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.~~

Discussion Items

- Discussion: Brood-year assessment

USFWS asked who and when is going to make a decision on adverse conditions for winter-run?

Reclamation noted that the JPE sub-team developed the broodyear assessment technical memo, which went out last Friday. The memo describes each agency's evaluation of adverse conditions. If an agency believes there are adverse conditions, then those concerns should be communicated to the FAWOG. The broodyear assessment included information from the previous 4 brood-years. The assessment provided information to the agencies on observed and modeled characteristics of these winter run salmon broodyears to consider how LSNFH may adapt production to support the population.

- Discussion: Upcoming balanced conditions in the Delta

The Delta Action Team (DAT) suggested the Delta could move into balanced conditions starting as early as next week, though this determination will depend on Chipps Island salinity.

- Discussion: SRG draft TMP

Elevated discussions from the SRG and to discuss how the Final Temperature Management Plan (TMP) is going to be implemented. The SRG is having a meeting tomorrow, May 14th, to review the start date for controlling temperatures and to review data and projection analyses. Some modeling is planned to be presented tomorrow and to be shared with the group, possibly distributed later today or tomorrow. Comment period ends at the end of the week. Reclamation will take that and the new forecast to develop the final TMP during the later half of May.

Action Items

- No Action Items.

Elevation Items

- No Elevation Items.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 20th, 2026, 2-2:50 p.m.