



Weekly Assessment of CVP and SWP Delta Operations

October 21, 2025

Delta Cross Channel is the current controlling condition, water quality is not met per D-1641 and therefore no DCC gate closure.

Executive Summary

Consistent with Table 3-6 of the Proposed Action, the Knights Landing Catch Index was 4.0 on October 20; however, currently the Chloride (Cl-) at Contra Costa Canal at Pumping Plan #1 (CDEC ID: INB) is exceeding 250 mg/l with an exceedance on 10/15 and 10/17 and again from 10/20 to 10/22. Based on Table 3-6, if the Delta Cross Channel Action Triggers and Responses from “October 1- November 30: Water quality criteria” are not met per D-1641 criteria, then there will be no DCC gate closure.

Winter-run Chinook salmon juvenile production has been high and these fish have been observed rearing and migrating in the Sacramento River. DCC gate closure would protect winter-run Chinook salmon from lower interior Delta survival and could reduce facility entrainment risk and salvage later this water year. Water qualities levels of concern and winter-run chinook salmon outmigration continue to be monitored.

Operational and Regulatory Conditions

For more information see Weekly Fish and Water Operation Outlook document for October 21 - October 27.

Biology, Distribution and Evaluation of Winter run Chinook salmon

Delta Life Stages

Juvenile

Historic Distribution

Table 1. Average percent presence by October 19 with 95% confidence intervals of annual emigrating population of juvenile Winter-run Chinook salmon. From: [WY2026 Current Conditions for the Salmon Monitoring Team SaMT: SacPAS Sacramento Prediction and Assessment of Salmon and other fishes](#). Last updated 10/20/2025

Species	Red Bluff Diversion Dam	Tisdale RST	Knights Landing RST	Sac Trawl (Sherwood) Catch Index	Chippis Island Trawl Catch Index	Salvage
Chinook, LAD Winter-run, Unclipped	64.3% (56.9%,71.7%) BY: 2015 - 2023	7.0% (1.5%,12.4%) BY: 2015 - 2024	6.9% (3.0%,10.8%) BY: 2015 - 2024	0.0% (0.0%,0.0%) BY: 2015 - 2024	0.0% (0.0%,0.0%) BY: 2015 - 2024	0.0% (0.0%,0.0%) WY: 2016 - 2025

Table 2. Knight's Landing (KLCI) and Sacramento Seine and Trawl (SCI). Catch indices for juvenile salmonid migration were triggered on 10/20/25. N/A indicates that Sacramento Trawls and Seines for SCI were not conducted.

Date	Knights Landing RST: Winter Chinook: Catch Index	Knights Landing RST: Older Chinook: Catch Index	Sacramento Trawls: Older Chinook: Catch Index	Sacramento Beach Seines: Older Chinook: Catch Index
2025-10-13	0	0	N/A	N/A
2025-10-14	0	0	N/A	N/A
2025-10-15	0	0	0	0
2025-10-16	0.6	0.6	0	0
2025-10-17	0.5	0.5	0	N/A
2025-10-18	0.5	0.5	N/A	0
2025-10-19	2.0	2.0	N/A	N/A
2025-10-20	4	4	0	0
2025-10-21	1.6	1.6	N/A	N/A

Winter Run STARS model predictions

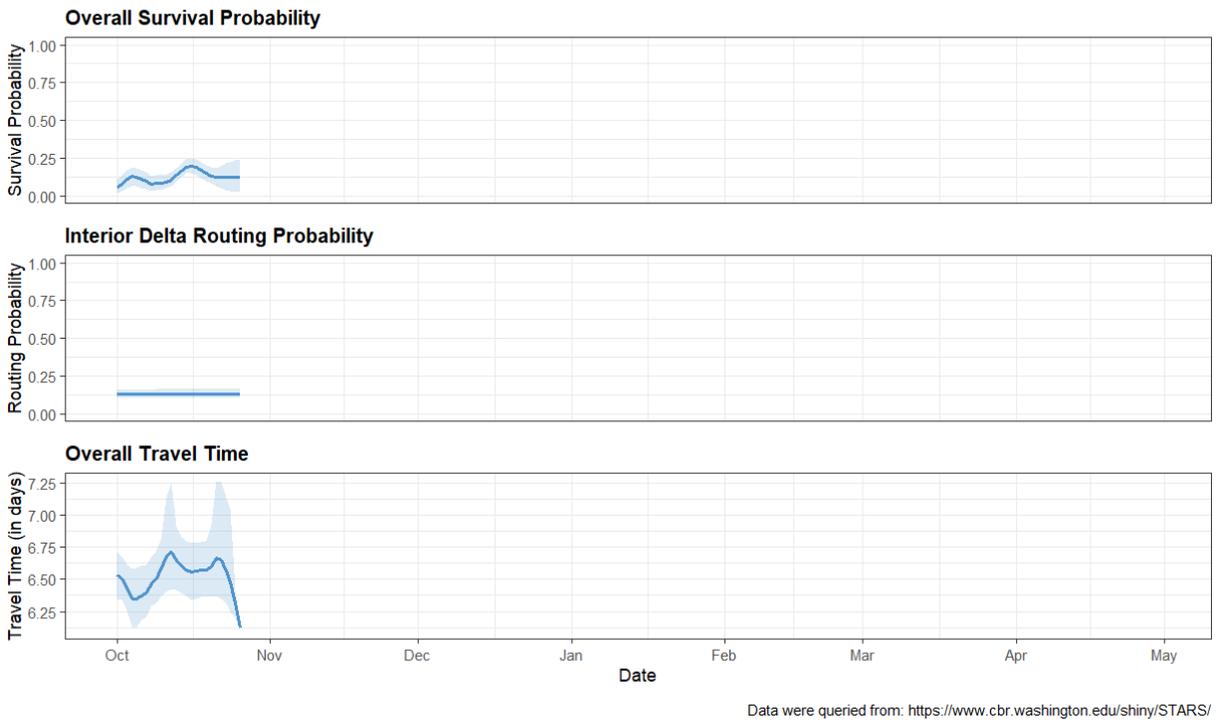


Figure 1. STARS model predictions for the Sacramento River through 10/26.

This figure contains three line graphs showing model predictions for winter-run salmon across time from approximately October through early November. The top panel shows estimated survival probability over time. Survival probability remains low throughout the period, fluctuating between about 0.10 and 0.22. The middle panel shows the predicted probability that fish using the interior Delta route. The probability remains relatively consistent over time at approximately 0.14 to 0.16, with very little variation. The bottom panel shows predicted travel time in days. Travel time fluctuates between approximately 6.2 and 7.2 days across the time period. The values increase slightly in mid-October before declining again toward early November.

Current Information

Winter-run Chinook Salmon

Flow and temperature environmental surrogates for winter-run Chinook salmon migration including Mill and Deer creeks flows and Knights Landing temperatures suggest suitable conditions for migration. Flows were elevated slightly on Mill and Deer creeks and at Wilkins Slough, but did not show rapid increases (>50%) or exceed 7,500 cfs, respectively, indicating suitable conditions for migration. Thousands of LAD winter-run Chinook salmon have been observed at Red Bluff Diversion Dam (Bill Poythress personal communication), indicating many outmigrants headed towards the delta.

On October 20, CDFW reported five length-at-date winter-run Chinook salmon captured at Knights Landing rotary screw trap. This resulted in a Knights Landing Catch Index (KLCI) of 4.0. The first LAD winter-run Chinook salmon was observed October 16 associated with last week's rainy conditions and they were also observed at the Tisdale Weir rotary screw trap.

No LAD winter run Chinook salmon have been observed at the Sacramento trawls or beach seines. Survival, Travel Time, and Routing Simulation (STARS) predicts low overall survival (~0.1-0.2), interior routing (~0.13), and travel time ~6.5 d (Figure 1).

See WY 2026 current conditions for the Salmon Monitoring Team: [WY2026 Current Conditions for the Salmon Monitoring Team SaMT: SacPAS Sacramento Prediction and Assessment of Salmon and other fishes](#) for data.

Delta Cross Channel Gates

The DCC gates are closed.

Monitoring Teams Summary

The assessment was shared with SaMT and discussed during the meeting. There were no issues raised to WOMT by SaMT.

Water Quality

The Chloride (Cl-) at Contra Costa Canal at Pumping Plan #1 (CDEC ID: INB) exceeded 250 mg/l on 10/15 and 10/17 and again from 10/20 to 10/22 ([CCWD ROCK SLOUGH PP NEAR BRENTWOOD \(INB\)](#)). Based on Table 3-6, Delta Cross channel Action Triggers and Responses from "October 1- November 30: Water quality criteria" are not met per D-1641 criteria, then there will be no DCC gate closure.

Water quality criteria are currently being met at locations listed in Table 3-7 in Appendix 2 of the Biological Opinion (see Figures 2-6).

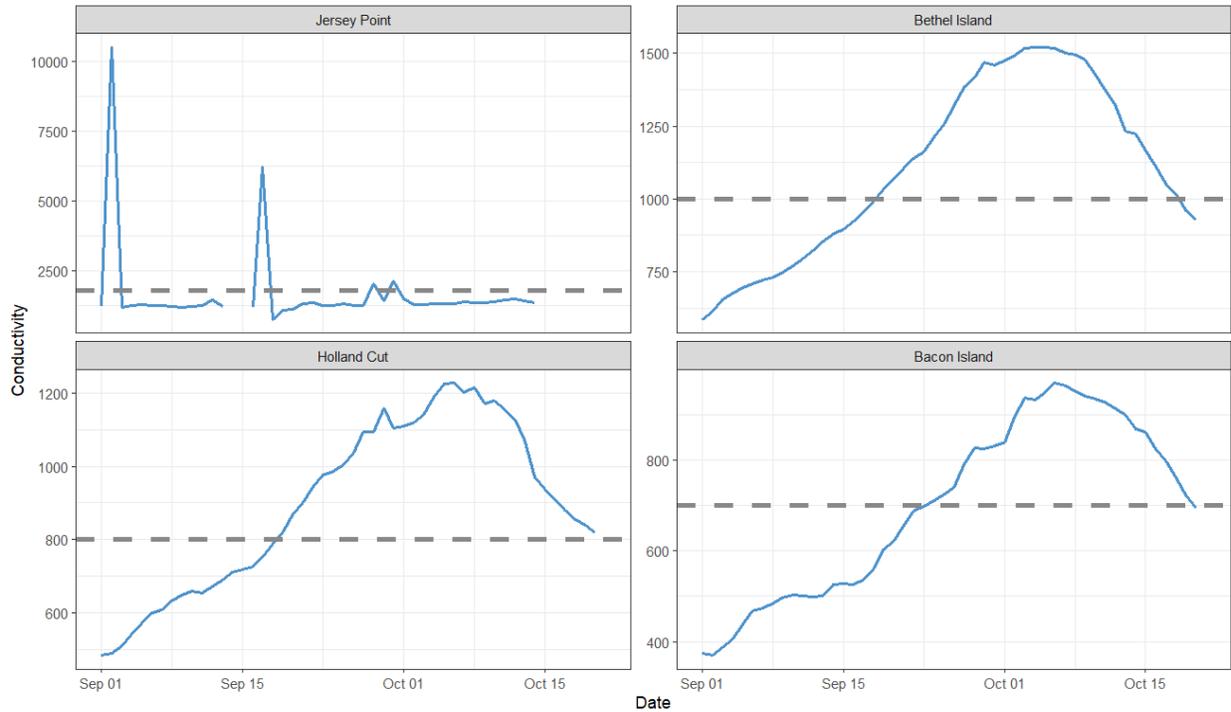


Figure 2. Conductivity (umhos/cm) at Jersey Point, Bethel Island, Holland Cut, and Bacon Island with associated standards thresholds (horizontal dashed line).

This figure contains four line graphs showing changes in water conductivity over time from early September through mid-October at Jersey Point, Bethel Island, Holland Cut, and Bacon Island. Each panel includes a dashed horizontal line indicating a threshold for conductivity at that location. For all graphs, the horizontal axis shows dates from early September to late October; the vertical axis represents conductivity in umhos/cm. At Jersey Point, conductivity values are generally between approximately 1,200 umhos/cm and 1,800 umhos/cm for most of the period. Two spikes occur in early and mid-September, with values rising to approximately 10,500 umhos/cm and 6,000 umhos/cm before returning to below the threshold. At Bethel Island, conductivity increases steadily from approximately 600 umhos/cm in early September to a peak near 1,500 umhos/cm in early October, then gradually decreases to approximately 950 umhos/cm by mid-October. Conductivity rises above the reference threshold in late September and remains above it until mid-October, after which it drops below the threshold. At Holland Cut, conductivity rises from approximately 500 umhos/cm in early September to about 1,200 umhos/cm in early October. Values remain above the reference threshold from mid-September through early October, then decline steadily to approximately 800 umhos/cm by mid-October, approaching the threshold. At Bacon Island, conductivity increases from approximately 380 umhos/cm in early September to around 950 umhos/cm in early October, then gradually declines to about 700 umhos/cm by mid-October. Conductivity exceeds the reference threshold from late September through mid-October before dropping back toward the threshold.

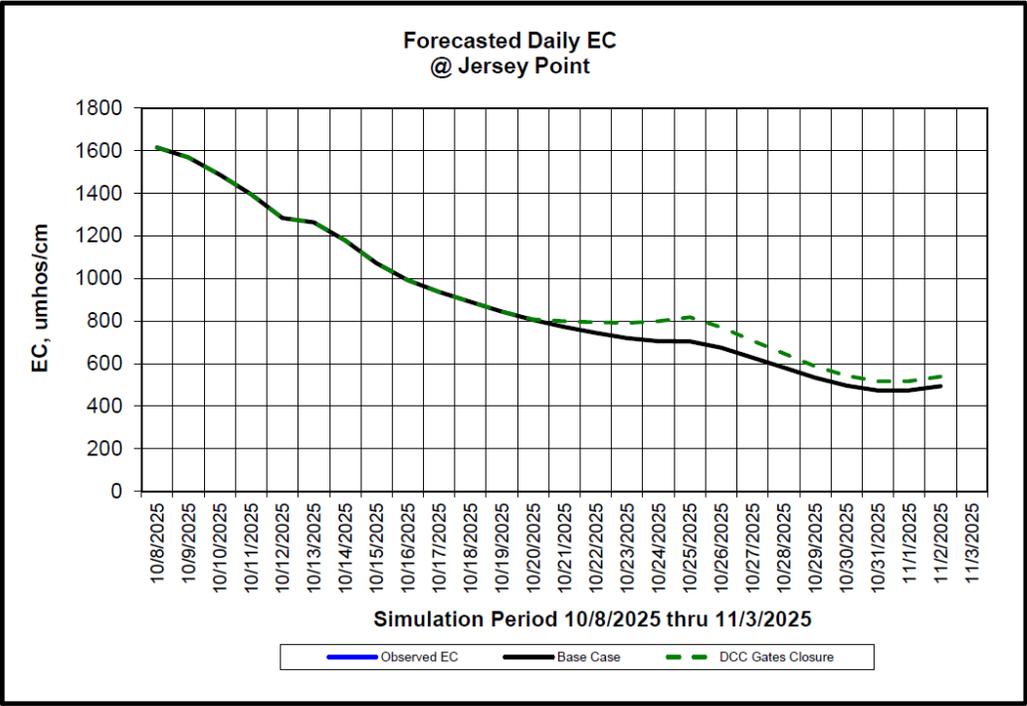


Figure 3. DSM2 EC modeling at Jersey Pt. Water quality concern level is 1800 umhos/cm.

This figure is a line graph showing observed and forecasted electrical conductivity at Jersey Point from October 8 through November 3, 2025. There are three trend lines: observed electrical conductivity, base case, and DCC gates closure. Electrical conductivity values decline steadily over time from approximately 1,600 umhos/cm to about 500 umhos/cm. The DCC gates closure scenario shows slightly higher electrical conductivity levels than the vase case forecast during most of the period. Observed electrical conductivity values closely follow the base case.

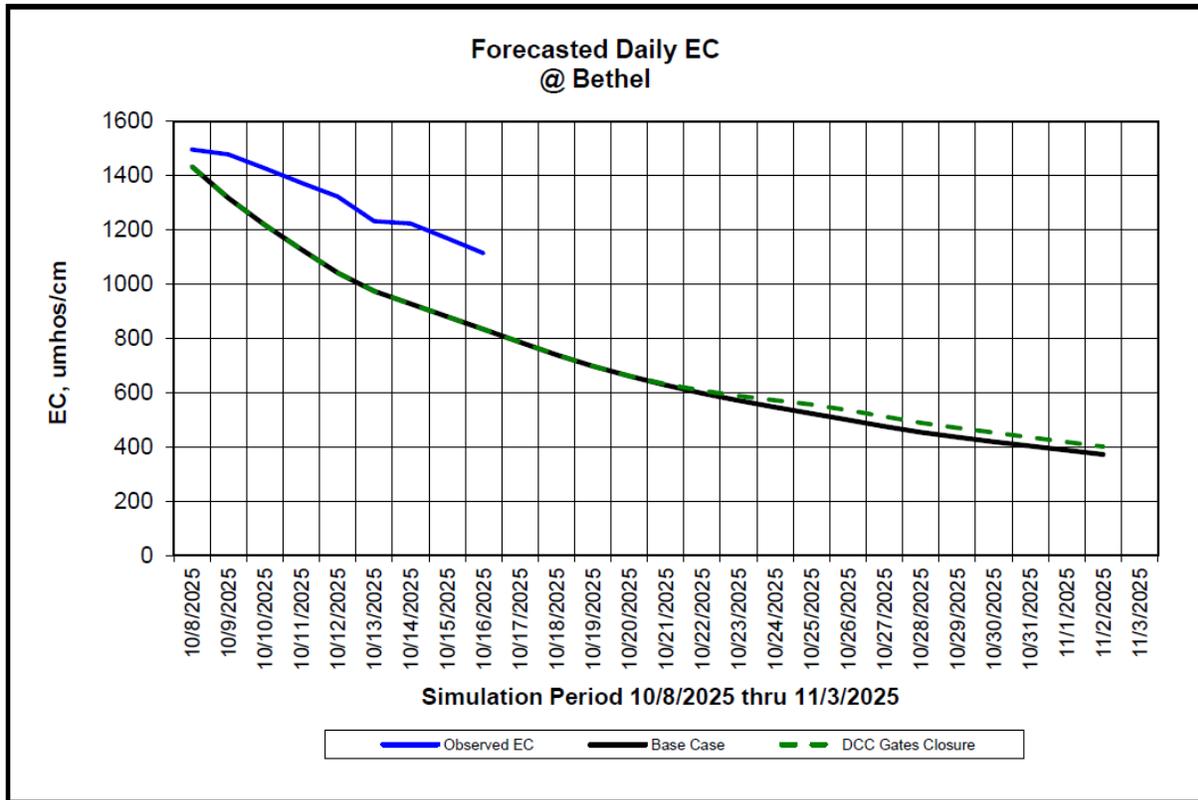


Figure 4. DSM2 EC modeling at Bethel. Water quality concern level is 1000 umhos/cm.

This figure shows forecasted daily electrical conductivity (EC) at Bethel from October 8 through November 3, 2025. EC is shown on the vertical axis, measured in umhos/cm, and date is shown on the horizontal axis. The base case and DCC gates closure scenarios follow similar trends, decreasing from approximately over 1,400 umhos/cm to under 400 umhos/cm through the period. Observed EC is higher than the base case and DCC gates closure scenarios, with EC values beginning at approximately 1,500 umhos/cm and decreasing to around 1,100 umhos/cm by October 16, 2025.

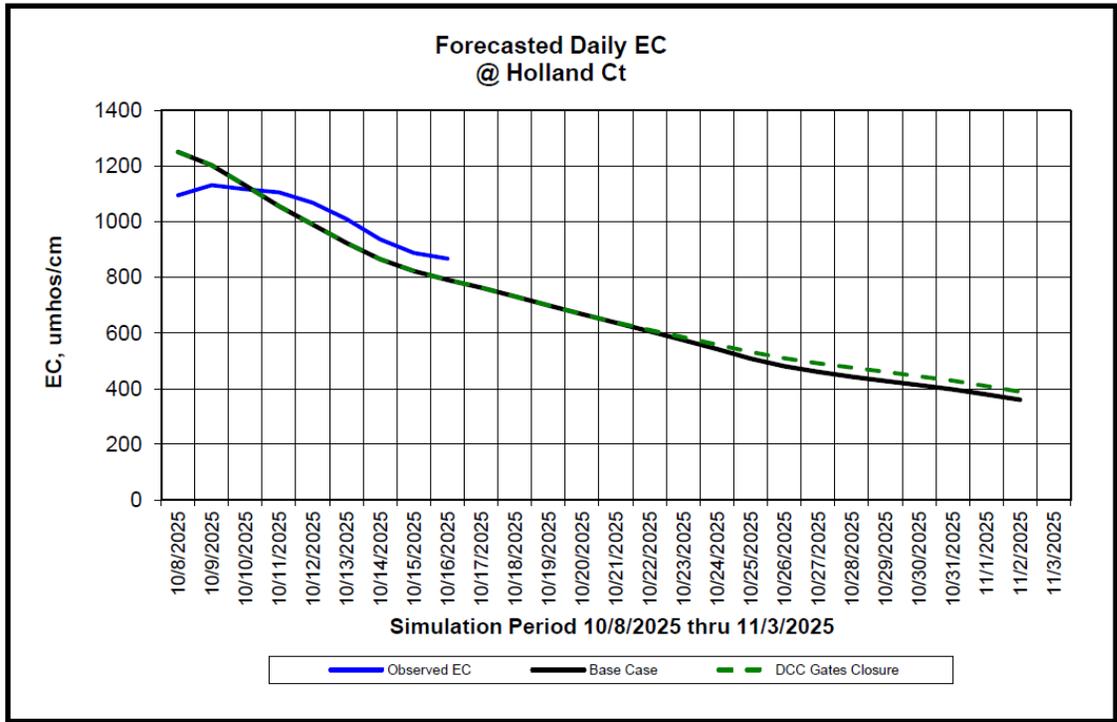


Figure 5. DSM2 EC modeling at Holland Cut. Water quality concern level is 800 umhos/cm.

This figure shows forecasted daily electrical conductivity (EC) at Holland Court from October 8 through November 3, 2025. EC is shown on the vertical axis, measured in umhos/cm, and date is shown on the horizontal axis. The base case and DCC gates closure scenarios follow similar trends, starting at approximately 1,300 umhos/cm and decreasing to approximately 400 umhos/cm by November 2, 2025. The observed case begins at 1,100 umhos/cm and decreases to approximately 850 umhos/cm by October 16, 2025.

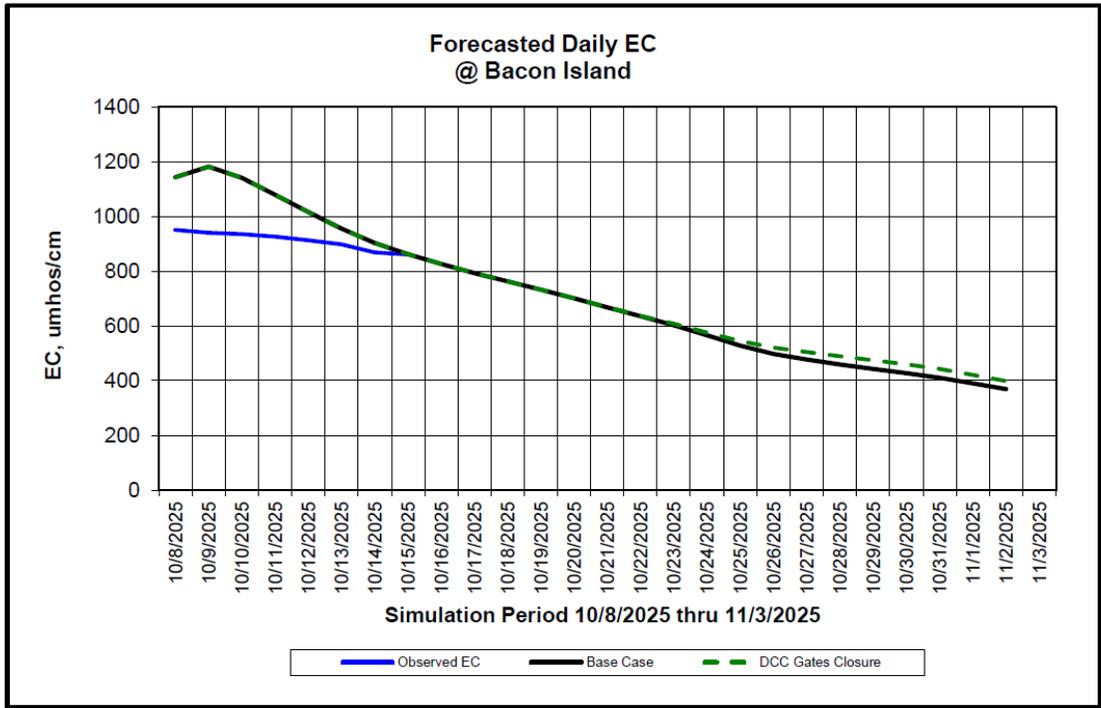


Figure 6. DSM2 EC modeling at Bacon Island. Water quality concern level is 700 umhos/cm.

This figure shows forecasted daily electrical conductivity (EC) at Bacon Island from October 8 through November 3, 2025. EC is shown on the vertical axis, measured in umhos/cm, and date is shown on the horizontal axis. The base case and DCC gates closure scenarios follow similar trends, starting at approximately 1,100 umhos/cm, increasing to approximately 1,200 umhos/cm on October 9, 2025, then decreasing to approximately 400 umhos/cm by November 2, 2025. The observed EC is lower than the base case and DCC gates closure, starting at around 950 umhos/cm and ending at approximately 850 umhos/cm by October 15, 2025.