



Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook

1/23/2024 – 1/29/2024

Water Project Operational Intent for Week

- Monthly Delta Outflow for January greater than 6,000 cfs; E/I ratio not to exceed 0.65. The “Integrated Early Winter Pulse Protection” action under both the Federal Bi Ops and State ITP was “triggered” on Sunday 1/21. The Projects will reduce their combined exports for 14 consecutive days so that the 14-day averaged OMRI for the period shall not be more negative than –2,000 cfs beginning Tuesday 1/23.

Forecasted Weather

- A break from the wet weather pattern over the weekend occurs on Tuesday, then a weaker system moves in Tuesday night and Wednesday bringing another round of rain and snow. Behind this system, the models forecast extended ridging and warmer temperatures from the end of this week into early next week.

Tables

Table 1: Anticipated weekly operational ranges by tributary. Environmental and fish conditions updated by respective watershed groups at varying intervals that may not coincide with the weekly range of Water Operations

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Clear Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Release: 200 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 200 cfs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring-run Chinook salmon fry rearing. • Fall-run Chinook salmon eggs are incubating and hatching. Juveniles are emerging and rearing. • Late fall-run Chinook Salmon adults are spawning and eggs are incubating. • Adult O. mykiss are migrating and spawning. Their eggs are incubating and juveniles are rearing. <p><i>(Updated 1/22/2024)</i></p>

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Sacramento River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shasta Storage: 3.188 MAF • Current Release: 5,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 5,000 cfs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult fall-run Chinook salmon spawning is complete. Late fall-run Chinook adults are approaching peak spawning and some are still holding. • Fall-run redds are in various stages. Some eggs are still incubating, while others have emerged and fry are beginning to migrate downstream. • Late-fall run Chinook eggs are currently incubating in gravel. <p><i>(Updated 1/22/2024)</i></p>
Feather River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oroville Storage: 2.538 MAF • Current Release: 1,750 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1,750 cfs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall-run Chinook salmon adult spawning has ended. Redds are being observed in both the HFC and LFC. Eggs are incubating in gravel. Fry are beginning to emerge and migrate downstream. • O. mykiss juveniles are rearing. Adults are migrating upstream. • Adult green sturgeon are still holding in the LFC. • Spring-run Chinook salmon adults have completed spawning. Eggs are incubating in gravel. Fry are emerging and migrating downstream. <p><i>(Updated 1/22/2024)</i></p>
American River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Folsom Storage: 483 TAF • Current Release: 1,750 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1,750 cfs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O. mykiss juveniles are rearing. • Adult fall-run Chinook salmon are spawning is nearing an end. Eggs are incubating in gravel. • Fry are beginning to emerge. <p><i>(Updated 1/22/2024)</i></p>
Stanislaus River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Melones Storage: 1.983 MAF • Current Release: 1,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1,000 cfs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O. mykiss - Adult and juveniles present • Fall-run Chinook salmon spawning is nearing an end. Eggs are incubating in gravel. <p><i>(Updated 1/22/2024)</i></p>

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Delta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeport: 35,000 to 40,000 cfs • Vernalis: 2,000 to 5,500 cfs • Delta Outflow index: 30,000 to 55,000 cfs • Combined Exports: 3,000 to 5,000 cfs • JPP: Current 3,600 cfs, Range 1,800 cfs to 3,600 cfs • CCF: Current 300 cfs, Range 300 cfs to 2,000 cfs • Expected Daily OMR Index Values: -1,500 cfs to -2,500 cfs • DCC Gates: Closed on 11/27 for season • X2 is approx. 74 km • Tides: Transitioning from Neap to Spring tide, full moon 1/25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile and adult <i>O. mykiss</i> present • Juvenile Chinook Salmon present • Adult and juvenile Green Sturgeon present • Delta Smelt sub-adults and adults (size-based) are present in the lower Sacramento River and Suisun Marsh. They are expected to begin their population-level, upstream spawning migration in response to high flow and turbidity (i.e., "first flush") conditions. • Longfin Smelt sub-adults and adults have been detected in Suisun Marsh and Bay, Grizzly Bay, San Pablo Bay, Chipps Island, and at the Confluence and Lower Sacramento River. Longfin Smelt larvae have been detected in the Lower San Joaquin River, Suisun Marsh, the Confluence, and the Lower Sacramento River. LFS population scale migration and spawning is ongoing. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Updated 1/22/2024)</i></p>

Table 2a-b: WY 2024 relevant Fish and Environmental Criteria and Status in 2019 Reclamation LTO Action Cumulative loss for the duration of 2019 Biological Opinion began upon signature of ROD, 2/19/2020.

Table 2a: WY 2024 Salmonid Current Loss and Delta Smelt Abiotic Conditions. Additional Real-Time OMR Restrictions and Performance Objectives (4.10.5.10.2, 4.10.5.10.3) and Onset of OMR Management (4.10.5.10.1). Genetic identification of salmon is not used in calculating loss, but results are included in the Assessment as they become available. The Final WR JPE for BY 2023 is 234,896. The ITL and performance thresholds are TBD.

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Green sturgeon	WY 2024 salvage = 74	WY 2024 salvage = 0 (0%)	No change expected	1/22/2024
Natural winter-run Chinook Salmon	WY 2024 loss = 1374 (50% of 1.17% of JPE)	WY 2024 loss = 30.29 (2.2%)	Increasing	1/22/2024

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Natural Steelhead	Dec 1 – Mar 31 = 707; (50% of 1,414) Apr 1 – June 15 = 776 (50% of 1,552)	WY 2024 loss = 60.48 Dec 1 – Mar 31 = 60.48 (8.55 % of the 50% threshold) Apr 1 – June 15 = 0 (0% of the 50% threshold)	Increasing	1/22/2024
Sacramento River Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	WY 2024 loss = 140.93 (50% of 0.12% of JPE)	WY 2024 loss = 0 (0%)	Increasing	1/22/2024
Battle Creek Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	WY 2024 loss = 234.90 (1% of JPE)	WY 2024 loss = 0 (0%)	No change expected	1/22/2024
Proposed Action Hatchery yearling spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates	> 0.5% of each release group 1) 12/22/2023 group 1: 60,764 = 303.82 2) 12/29/2023 group 2: 71,049 = 355.25 3) 1/11/2024 group 3: 67,018 = 335.09	WY 2024 loss = 1) 24.53 (8.1%) 2) 12.98 (3.7%) 3) 0 (0%)	Increasing	1/22/2024
Delta Smelt	After Dec. 1: Running 3-day avg. flows at Freeport >25,000 cfs AND Running 3-day avg. turbidity at Freeport =>50 FNU	Triggered 1/21/2024 with Freeport 3-day avg. Flow = 25177 cfs; Turbidity = 53.9 FNU	Increase this week	1/22/2024
Delta Smelt	Daily avg. Turbidity at OBI=>12 FNU	OBI Daily Average = 3.11 FNU	N/A	11/22/2024
Delta Smelt	Daily avg. Temperature at CCF > 25°C for three consecutive days	CCF daily avg. Temperature = Not relevant	Not relevant	11/27/2023

Table 2b. 10-Year Salmonid Cumulative Loss

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Updated
Natural winter-run Chinook salmon	Loss = 8,738	Cumulative loss = 400.54(4.58%)	1/22/2024
Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	Loss = 5,356	Cumulative loss = 6.71 (0.13%)	1/22/2024
Natural steelhead	Loss = 6,038 (Dec 1 – Mar 31) Loss = 5,826 (Apr 1 – June 15)	Cumulative loss = 1636.94 (27.1%, Dec 1 – Mar 31) 1012.50(17.4%, Apr 1 – June 15)	1/22/2024

Table 3a-c: Relevant Water Year 2024 Fish Criteria and Status for Listed Fish under the SWP Long-Term Incidental Take Permit.

Table 3a: Chinook Salmon

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
OMR Mgmt. triggered (8.3.2)	Jan. 1 - Jun. 30 (when ≥ 5% of spring-run or winter-run in Delta)	In effect	5% of the Winter-run or Spring-run population in Delta	N/A	N/A	1/8/2024	In effect as of January 1.
Winter-run yearly loss (8.6.1)	Nov. 1 - Jun. 30	In effect	2,748.28 (1.17% of Natural LAD WR of Final JPE) 232.30 (0.12% of LSNFH of Final JPE)	Loss of total LAD Winter-run = 34.62	Salvage is likely to occur in the upcoming week	1/23/23	Natural-origin LAD winter-run Chinook salmon (WR) were observed in salvage the previous week.
Winter-run discrete daily loss (8.6.2)	Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	Not in effect	26 older juvenile/day	Max Older Juvenile discrete daily loss observed last week = N/A	N/A	1/22/2024	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Mid and late season Winter-run daily loss threshold (8.6.3)	Jan 1 – May 31	In effect	1/1-1/31: loss of 2.91 fish /day of natural-origin LAD older juvenile (Winter-run, Yearling fall-run, and Late fall-run). Updated with genetic results as they become available. If genetics confirms that the older juvenile is NOT a WR then that fish will not count towards the threshold.	Max daily Loss of older juvenile Chinook occurred on 1/15 with loss of 5.76.	Salvage of older juveniles is likely in the upcoming week.	1/22/2024	Older juveniles were salvaged at both fish facilities the previous week. A genetically-confirmed WR was observed in salvage on 1/16/24 which triggered COA 8.6.3.
Spring-run surrogate protection (8.6.4)	Feb. 1 - Jun. 30	Not in effect	TBD	N/A	N/A	9/29/23	Will be updated when in effect

Table 3b: Delta Smelt

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Integrated Early Winter Pulse Protection ('First Flush') (8.3.1)	Dec. 1 - Jan. 31	In effect	- three-day Freeport daily flow running avg \geq 25,000 AND [three-day Freeport turbidity running avg \geq 50 FNU OR Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation]	Triggered on 1/21/2024 with Freeport 3-day avg. Flow = 25,177 cfs; Turbidity = 53.9 FNU	Flows expected to increase this week	1/22/24	N/A
Turbidity Bridge Avoidance (8.5.1)	Dec. 15 - Apr. 1	Not in effect	Occurs after the Integrated Early Winter Pulse protection or February 1 whichever comes first until April 1 -avg. OBI turbidity $>$ 12 FNU	OBI daily average = 3.11 FNU	N/A	11/22/24	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Larval and/Juvenile Delta smelt Protection (8.5.2)	Nov. 1 – Jun. 30	In effect, not triggered	- If 5-day cum. salvage of juv.DS >= 1 [average 3-yr FMWT index + 1], then –5000 OMR - If DS in SLS/20mm or 3-d temp at Jersey Point >= 12C, and SLS/20mm Secchi for 12 south delta stations <= 1m, then – 3500 OMR	Current 5-day salvage = 0 3-day SJJ temp= 11.05 °C Average Secchi Depth = 118cm (as of 1/22)	N/A	1/9/24	N/A

Table 3c: Longfin Smelt

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Early Adult Protection (8.3.3)	Dec. 1 - Feb. 28	Off-ramped	-Cum. salvage > [most recent FMWT/10] = 46 fish (Sept.-Dec. Index) OR -Smelt Monitoring Team determines high likelihood of LFS movement into high-risk areas	Cumulative salvage = 0	N/A	12/26/23	N/A
OMR Mgt. for Adults (8.4.1)	Onset of OMR mgmt - Feb. 28	Off-ramped	-Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation	N/A	N/A	12/19/23	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection (8.4.2)	Jan 1 – Jun 30	Triggered	-LFS larvae or juveniles in >=4 SLS or 20 mm stations in central and south Delta, OR -LFS catch/tow >5 larvae or juveniles in >=2stations	SLS 1 detected five larvae at 809, 812, 815, and 901 on 1/10/24	N/A	1/23/24	SWP is restricted to an OMRI of -5,000 on a 7-day average when the 3-day average of QWest is more positive than +3,000.
High Flow OMR Off-Ramp for Longfin Smelt (8.4.3)	Based on the status of 8.3.3, 8.4.1, & 8.4.2	In effect, not triggered	-Sac. R. at Rio Vista >55,000, OR SJR at Vernalis >8,000	Rio Vista = 20,000 – 40,000 – cfs SJ = 2,000 – 5,500 cfs	N/A	1/22/24	N/A

Table 4: Fish monitoring gear efficiency and disruptions. Status Categories: [1] Active (ongoing sampling), [2] Partial Interruption (some sampling interruptions), [3] Interrupted (sampling fully suspended), [4] Not Active (sampling not scheduled)

Monitoring survey	Region	Notes (as of 1/22/2024)	Status
SWP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
SWP larval sampling	Delta	Not Active	4
CVP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Partially interrupted (1/24)	2
CVP larval sampling	Delta	Not Active	4
Smelt Larval Survey	Delta	Active	1
LEPS	Delta	Active	1
20mm Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
Fall Mid-water Trawl	Delta	Not Active	4
Summer Towntnet Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
Bay Study	Delta	Active	1
DJFMP- Chipps and Sacramento Trawls	Delta	Active	1

Monitoring survey	Region	Notes (as of 1/22/2024)	Status
DJFMP- Seines	Delta	Active	1
EDSM	Delta	Active	1
EMP	Delta	Active	1
Mossdale Trawl	Delta	Active	1
USGS Flow monitoring	Delta	Active	1
Red Bluff Diversion Dam Rotary Screw Trap (RST)	Sacramento River	Active	1
Knights Landing RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
Tisdale RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
Yuba River (Hallwood) RST	Yuba River	Active	1
Redd dewatering and stranding surveys	Sacramento River	Active	1
Sacramento Carcass and Redd Surveys (Late fall-run Chinook salmon)	Sacramento River	Active	1
Lower Sacramento RST	Sacramento River	Partially Interrupted (Inactive due to high flows from 1/14/24-1/15/24)	2
Feather River (upper DWR) RST	Feather River	Active	1
Feather River (lower CDFW) RST	Feather River	Active	1
SJRRP CDFW Field Monitoring	San Joaquin River	Active	1
SJRRP USBR Field Monitoring	San Joaquin River	Active	1
Stanislaus Fish Weir	Stanislaus River	Active	1
American River Carcass/Redd Surveys (Fall-run Chinook salmon)	American River	Active	1
Stanislaus Carcass Survey (Steelhead/Fall-run Chinook salmon)	Stanislaus River	Active	1
Caswell RST	Stanislaus River	Active	1
Wallace Weir	Cache Slough	Active	1
Butte Creek RST/Diversion Trap	Butte Creek	Active	1