



Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook

11/5/2024 – 11/11/2024

Water Project Operational Intent for Week

Both (CVP and SWP) water projects are operating to the following D-1641 standards:

1. monthly average Delta Outflow (and Rio Vista flow) not less than 4,500 cfs in November,
2. E/I ratio no greater than 0.65, and
3. daily Chlorides at Contra Costa Intake (at Rock Slough) no greater than 250 mg/l.

Biological Context

No ESA biological protections “controlling” water project operations have been “triggered” at this time.

Forecasted Weather

Mostly dry conditions this week with near normal temperatures. North winds, particularly in afternoon, increase in intensity during mid-week elevating fire weather concerns.

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"> • Fall-run Chinook Salmon actively spawning and their eggs incubating. • Spring-run Chinook Salmon eggs are incubating. • O. mykiss adults are migrating into the creek. <p>(Updated 10/28/2024)</p>

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Sacramento River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shasta Storage: 2.577 MAF • Current Release: 6,200 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 5,000 cfs to 6,200 cfs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter-run adult spawning is complete, some winter-run fry remain in gravel • Spring-run adults have completed spawning, spring run eggs/fry remain in the gravel. • Fall-run adults are actively spawning, fall-run eggs/fry are in the gravel. • Late-fall adults are migrating upstream from the ocean and holding in the watershed. • Winter-run fry are migrating past RBDD in relatively low numbers considering that historically 72% of the run has passed through by this time. • Small numbers of late fall-run pre-smolts, late fall-run juveniles from last spring, spring-run and fall-run smolts, and O. Mykiss juveniles also passing RBDD at this time. <p>(Updated 11/5/2024)</p>
Feather River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oroville Storage: 1.704 MAF • Current Release: 1,750 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1,750 cfs • Daily temperature maximum: 51 +/- 4 degrees F at Fish Hatchery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring-run Chinook spawning is complete, eggs are incubating in gravel. • Fall-run Chinook salmon adults are migrating upstream and spawning. • Adult O. mykiss present and migrating upstream. <p>(Updated 10/28/2024)</p>
American River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Folsom Storage: 391 TAF • Current Release: 2,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 2,000 cfs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall-run Chinook salmon adults are migrating upstream and beginning to spawn. • 11 fall-run redds have been observed so far in river. <p>(Updated 11/4/2024)</p>

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Stanislaus River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Melones Storage: 1.796 MAF • Current Release: 500 cfs • Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 200 cfs to 500 cfs for Fall Pulse Flow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile and adult <i>O. mykiss</i> are present. • Adult fall-run Chinook Salmon are migrating upstream and beginning to spawn. • Redds are beginning to be observed in river. (Updated 11/4/2024)
Delta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeport: 8,000 to 10,000 cfs • Vernalis: 1,000 to 2,500 cfs • Delta Outflow index: 4,000 to 5,800 cfs • Combined Exports: 4,500 to 7,000 cfs • JPP: 3,500 cfs • CCF: 1,000 cfs to 3,500 cfs • Expected Daily OMR Index Values: -3,500 to -5,700 cfs • DCC Gates: Opened on 10/11. • X2 > 81 km • Tides: Transition from Spring to Neap; Full Moon on 11/15. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delta Smelt juveniles, sub-adults and adults are expected to be present in the Low Salinity Zone and the Sacramento Deepwater Shipping Channel. No Delta Smelt have been detected in WY2025. • No Longfin Smelt have been detected upstream of the confluence in WY2025. (Updated 11/5/2024)

Table 2a-b: WY 2025 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 2025 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.

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Green sturgeon	WY 2025 salvage = 74	WY 2025 salvage = 0 (0%)	No change expected	11/04/2024
Natural winter-run Chinook Salmon	WY 2025 loss = TBD * (50% of 1.17% of JPE)	WY 2025 loss = 0	No change expected	11/04/2024

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 2025 loss = 0 Dec 1 – Mar 31 = 0 (0%) Apr 1 – June 15 = 0 (0%)	No change expected	11/04/2024
Sacramento River Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	WY 2025 loss = TBD* (50% of 0.12% of JPE)	WY 2025 loss = 0 (0%)	No change expected	11/04/2024
Battle Creek Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	WY 2025 loss = TBD * (50% of 0.12% of JPE)	WY 2025 loss = 0 (0%)	No change expected	11/04/2024
Proposed Action Hatchery yearling spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates	> 0.5% of each release group	WY 2025 loss = 0 (0%)*	No change expected	11/04/2024
Delta Smelt	After Dec. 1: Running 3-day avg. flows at Freeport >25,000 cfs Running 3-day avg. turbidity at Freeport =>50 FNU	Freeport 3-day avg. Flow = 8641 cfs Turbidity = 2.84 FNU	No change expected	11/4/2024
Delta Smelt	Daily avg. Turbidity at OBI=>12 FNU	OBI Daily Average = Not relevant	Not relevant	10/28/2024
Delta Smelt	Daily avg. Temperature at CCF > 25°C for three consecutive days	CCF daily avg. Temperature = Not relevant	Not relevant	10/28/2024

Table 2b. 10-Year Salmonid Cumulative Loss

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Updated
Natural winter-run Chinook salmon	Loss = 8,738	Cumulative loss = 4575.3 (52.36%)	11/04/2024
Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	Loss = 5,356	Cumulative loss = 11.04 (0.21%)	11/04/2024

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Updated
Natural steelhead	Loss = 6,038 (Dec 1 – Mar 31) Loss = 5,826 (Apr 1 – June 15)	Cumulative loss = 4951.27 (82%, Dec 1 – Mar 31) 2923.28 (50.2%, Apr 1 – June 15)	11/04/2024

Table 3a-d: Relevant Water Year 2025 Fish Criteria and Status for Listed Fish under the SWP Long-Term Incidental Take Permit.

Table 3a: Chinook Salmon

* No draft WR JPE for WY 2025. Final JPE letter is expected in January.

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)	Not in effect	-5% of the Winter-run or Spring-run population in Delta	N/A	N/A	10/7/24	N/A
Winter-run yearly loss (8.6.1)	Nov. 1 - Jun. 30	In effect	TBD (based on JPE)*	N/A	N/A	10/7/24	N/A
Winter-run discrete daily loss (8.6.2)	Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	In effect	11/1-11/30: loss of 6/day unclipped older juv. Chinook Salmon	N/A	N/A	11/4/24	N/A
Mid and late season Winter-run daily loss threshold (8.6.3)	Jan 1 – May 31	Not in effect	TBD (based on JPE)*	N/A	N/A	10/7/24	N/A
Spring-run surrogate protection (8.6.4)	Feb. 1 - Jun. 30	Not in effect	TBD (based on the number of fish released)	N/A	N/A	10/7/24	N/A

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	Not active	- three-day Freeport daily flow running avg \geq 25,000 AND [three-day Freeport turbidity running avg \geq 50 NTU OR Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation]	FPT flow: 8641 cfs FPT turbidity: 2.84 FNU	No change expected	11/4/24	Data from 11/3/24
Turbidity Bridge Avoidance (8.5.1)	Dec. 15 - Apr. 1	Not active	Occurs after the Integrated Early Winter Pulse protection or February 1 (whichever comes first) until April 1 -avg. OBI turbidity $>$ 12 FNU	OBI Turbidity: Not relevant	Not relevant		
Larval and/Juvenile Delta smelt Protection (8.5.2)	ongoing	Not active	If 5-day cum. salvage of juv.DS \geq 1 [average 3-yr FMWT index + 1], then -5000 OMR If DS in SLS/20mm or 3-d temp at Jersey Point \geq 12C, and SLS/20mm Secchi for 12 south delta stations \leq 1m, then -3500 OMR	Current 5-day salvage = Not relevant 3-day SJJ temp = Not relevant Secchi = Not relevant	Not relevant		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	Not Active	-Cum. salvage > [most recent FMWT/10] =XX fish (Sept.-Dec. Index) OR -Smelt Monitoring Team determines high likelihood of LFS movement into high-risk areas	Cum salvage total = 0	No change expected	11/04/24	
OMR Mgt. for Adults (8.4.1)	Dec. 1 -Feb. 28	Not Active	-Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation	N/A	N/A		N/A
Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection (8.4.2)	Jan 1 – Jun 30	Not Active	-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				
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	Not Active	-Sac. R. at Rio Vista>55,000, OR SJR at Vernalis >8,000	Rio Vista = 3,500 – 5,500 cfs SJ = 1,000 to 2,500 cfs	N/A	11/4/24	N/A

Table 3d: OMR

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
OMR Storm Flexibility (8.7)	Jan 1 – Jun 30	Not in Effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Delta is in excess -QWEST is > 0 -Measurable amount of precipitation has occurred -None of COA's are controlling operations (8.3.1, 8.3.3, 8.4.1, 8.4.2, 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 8.6.1, 8.6.2, 8.6.3, 8.6.4) -Cumulative salvage at CVP and SWP of yearling CNFH LFR Chinook salmon (as yearling CHNSR surrogates) is < 0.5% with any of the release groups -Risk Assessments conducted by the SaMT/SMT determines no changes in spawning, rearing, foraging, sheltering, or migration behavior as a result of OMR Flex operations beyond those are likely to occur. 	N/A	N/A	10/14/24	Based on storm conditions
OMR Mgmt. Offramp (8.8)	Jun. 1 – Jun. 30	Not in effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ->95% of the Winter-run and Spring run populations have migrated past Chipps Island AND -Current daily average water temperature at Mossdale and Prisoners Point. 	N/A	N/A	10/14/24	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 11/5/2024)	Status
SWP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
SWP larval sampling	Delta	Not Active	4
CVP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
CVP larval sampling	Delta	Not Active	4
Smelt Larval Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
LEPS	Delta	Not Active	4
20mm Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
Fall Mid-water Trawl	Delta	Active	1
Summer Townet Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
Bay Study	Delta	Active	1
DJFMP- Chipps and Sacramento Trawls	Delta	Active	1
DJFMP- Seines	Delta	Active	1
EDSM	Delta	Active	1
EMP	Delta	Active	1
Mossdale	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
GCID RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
Yuba River (Hallwood) RST	Yuba River	Active	1
Butte Creek Carcass Surveys	Butte Creek	Active	1
Butte Creek RST	Butte Creek	Active	1
Redd dewatering and stranding surveys	Sacramento River	Active	1

Monitoring survey	Region	Notes (as of 11/5/2024)	Status
Sacramento Carcass and Redd Surveys	Sacramento River	Active	1
Lower Sacramento RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
Feather River (upper DWR) RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
Feather River (lower CDFW) RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
Feather River Carcass Survey	Sacramento River	Active	1
SJRRP CDFW Field Monitoring	San Joaquin River	Active	1
SJRRP USFWS and USBR Field Monitoring	San Joaquin River	Active	1
Stanislaus Fish Weir	San Joaquin River	Active	1
Stanislaus River Carcass Survey	San Joaquin River	Active	1
American River Carcass Survey	Sacramento River	Active	1

Preference (i.e., a y-intercept of 0.5)