BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook

5/5/2026 - 5/11/2026

Water Project Operational Intent for Week

Combined CVP and SWP exports are constrained to 100% of the Vernalis flows during the pulse flow period (April 13 to May 13) per D-1641 (see Table 3 for Export Limits). Per ITP COA 8.12.1, SWP Delta exports are also constrained to its proportionate share of the 1:1 ratio with Vernalis flows through the end of May, due to a current SJV April Water Year forecast of Critical. Per Action 5 and ITP COA 8.3, combined Delta exports do not cause OMRI to be more negative than –5,000 cfs on a 14-day average basis.

Biological Context

The DCC gates are currently closed. Later in May, the DCC gates will be opened periodically.

Forecasted Weather

Chances for showers and thunderstorms, mainly in the mountains, on Monday and Tuesday. Warming quickly to hot and dry conditions by the end of the week into the weekend.

Tables

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

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Clear Creek	• Current Release: 225 cfs • Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 200 cfs to 225 cfs	• Spring-run, fall-run, and late fall-run Chinook Salmon juveniles are rearing and out-migrating in low numbers. • Adult spring-run Chinook are entering the creek and migrating upstream. • Adult O. mykiss/steelhead eggs are incubating, and juveniles are rearing and out-migrating. • (Updated 05/04/2026)
Sacramento River	• Shasta Storage: 4.154 MAF • Current Release: 7,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 7,000 cfs to 8,000 cfs	• Juvenile spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon are emerging and migrating downstream. • Winter-run Chinook salmon have migrated downstream past RBDD. • Late fall-run Chinook Salmon are migrating upstream. Some are preparing to spawn, while others are actively spawning. Early eggs are in the gravel. Fry are being captured sporadically in low numbers. • Larval Green Sturgeon are being caught daily in increasing numbers. • (Updated 04/28/2026)
Feather River	• Oroville Storage: 3.342 MAF • Current Release: 1,100 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1,050 cfs to 1,100 cfs • Daily temperature maximum: 55 °F at Fish Hatchery	• Fall-run Chinook Salmon spawning is complete. Juveniles are emerging and migrating downstream. • Spring-run Chinook Salmon juveniles are migrating downstream. • Adult O. mykiss are migrating upstream. • Sturgeon are on their spawning grounds. • (Updated 04/21/2026)

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
American River	• Folsom Storage: 934 TAF • Current Release: 3,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 3,000 cfs	• Fry are emerging and migrating downstream. • (Updated 04/7/2026)
Stanislaus River	• New Melones Storage: 1.868 MAF • Current Release: 350 cfs • Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 150 cfs to 350 cfs	• Fall-run juveniles are emerging and migrating downstream. • Spring-run fry are emerging and moving downstream. • (Updated 4/20/2026)
Delta	• Freeport: 13,000 cfs to 15,000 cfs • Vernalis: 1,300 cfs to 2,200 cfs • Delta Outflow index: 10,000 to 14,500 cfs • Combined Exports: 1,500 to 2,400 cfs • JPP: 900 cfs to 1,800 cfs • CCF: 600 cfs • Expected Daily OMR Index Values: -1,000 cfs to – 2,000 cfs • Rio Vista Flows: 10,000 cfs to 12,000 cfs • DCC Gates: Closed • X2 at 65 km • Qwest daily: +2,700 cfs • Qwest 7-day average: +3,700 cfs • Forecasted Weekly Range of 7-day averaged Qwest: +1,400 cfs to +3,500 cfs • JPF: 1,600 cfs to 2,500 cfs • Tides: Transition from Spring to Neap; Third Quarter Moon on May 9.	• LAD spring-run Chinook salmon juveniles are being observed by monitoring surveys. • Winter-run Chinook salmon juveniles are being observed at Chipps Island. • 163,349 unmarked Delta smelt were released in fall 2025. A total of 44 adult and 30 juvenile Delta smelt have been observed in Suisun Marsh, the lower Sacramento River, the SDWSC, and at CVP salvage facilities. The most recent observations were of two adults caught by EDSM in Suisun Marsh on 3/24/26 and 3/18/26. An adult was detected in salvage at the TFCF on 3/6/2026. • A total of 303 sub-adult and adult Longfin Smelt have been observed in the Chipps Island Trawl for WY2026, with the last detection being on 03/12/2026. • No Longfin Smelt were detected at station 809 or 812 during 20mm survey 4 (4/27-4/30) .*unidentified Hypomesus and Osmerid larvae from 20mm surveys are not listed, all data preliminary pending genetic confirmation.20mm 5 will be on the water 5/11-5/13 • 20mm detected a larval White Sturgeon at station 711 on the Sacramento River on 3/16/2026. • (Updated 05/03/2026)

Table 2a: WY 2026 Salmonid Current Loss and Delta and Longfin Smelt Abiotic Conditions

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Green sturgeon	Annual ITL= 14 3-year rolling average ITL= 5	Salvage = 11	Occasional salvage possible	4/21/26
Winter-run Chinook Salmon juveniles (JPE= 1,057,452 (genetically confirmed unclipped); 130,096 (LSNFH Sacramento River); 5,186 (LSNFH Battle Creek))	Genetically confirmed unclipped Annual ITL = 5,922; loss threshold= 10,575 LSNFH releases (Annual ITL and loss threshold) Sacramento River = 1,301 Battle Creek = 52	Confirmed Natural-Origin Genetic loss= 45.43(0.43%) LSNFH loss = 57.91 (4.45%)	Salvage not likely to occur.	4/21/26
Central Valley Steelhead	[1]Clipped = 3565 [2]Unclipped = 5914	Hatchery Loss = 1,887 (28.84 of threshold) Natural-origin loss = 251 (4.74%)	Salvage of clipped and unclipped fish is likely to continue in the upcoming week.	05/05/26
Spring-run Chinook salmon surrogate releases	Yearling: Annual ITL: 0.5% of 75,119 = 376; 60,873 = 304; 57,109=286 Loss Threshold: 1% of 75,119 = 751 60,873 = 609 57,109 = 571 Young of Year= TBD	Yearling loss = 257.32 Group 1 (75,119) Loss: 0 Group 2 (60,873) Loss: 261.57 Group 3 (57,109) Loss: 35.06 0 (0.00% of annual loss threshold) spring-run surrogate YOY (Feather River Spring-Run) N/A	Salvage of YOY is possible but salvage of yearling is unlikely.	04/21/26

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
First Flush (onset of Entrainment Management Season)	Freeport flows ≥ 25,000 cfs AND Freeport turbidity ≥ 50 FNU	See Table 3b First flush conditions were met on 12/23/25 and implemented by CVP on 12/25/25-1/7/26.	N/A	12/29/25
Delta smelt adults	JPF < 0 AND daily average turbidity ≥ 12 FNU in OMR corridor UNTIL Average water temperatures at Jersey Point or Rio Vista ≥ 12°C (53.6°F) for 3 consecutive days	Not active Jersey Point temp: 12.05 °C on 2/10 12.09 °C on 2/11 12.13 °C on 2/12	N/A	3/16/26
Delta smelt larvae and juveniles	After onset of spawning, if JPF < 0 AND turbidity is ≥12 FNU in the south Delta	Active, not triggered Daily JPF: 3,116 cfs (as of 5/3) Avg turbidity in south Delta: 4.2 FNU (as of 4/29)	Turbidity in south Delta is low	5/3/26
Longfin smelt adults	If JPF < 0 and assessment indicates annual loss will exceed 5% of adult population abundance	Active, not triggered Daily JPF: 3,116 cfs (as of 5/3) Annual loss of adult LFS: 0	No WY26 salvage to date	5/3/26
Longfin smelt larvae and juveniles	If JPF < 0 and population model indicates need to reduce entrainment to avoid population decline	Active, not triggered Daily JPF: 3,116 cfs (as of 5/3)	No WY26 salvage to date, low potential entrainment this week.	5/3/2026

[1]Based on combined releases and estimated survival across Coleman, Feather River, Nimbus, and Mokelumne hatcheries.
[2]No operational threshold for unclipped steelhead. Incidental Take Limit from NMFS 2024 Biological Opinion.

Table 3a-e: Relevant Water Year 2026 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
Onset of OMR Management (8.3)	Jan. 1 - Jun. 30	In Effect	Begins January 1 or earlier if COA 8.3.1, COA 8.3.2, or COA 8.3.3 are in effect (see Table 3b)	N/A	N/A	5/4/26	N/A
Winter-run Annual Loss (8.4.3)	July 1 - Jun. 30	In Effect – JPE was finalized on 1/8/26.	Natural-origin Winter-run Loss Threshold: 5,287.26 Hatchery-origin Winter-run Loss Threshold: 156.12 Battle Creek Loss threshold: 6.22	Confirmed Genetic WR Annual Loss = 45.43 Hatchery origin Winter-run Loss = 57.91 Battle Creek Winter-run Loss = 2.33	Salvage of natural- and hatchery-origin winter-run is unlikely in the next week based on seasonal migration timing and loss over the previous week.	5/4/26	All LAD WR have been processed for rapid genetics to the date. No further salvage from Winter-run hatchery groups has occurred.
Natural-origin Winter-run Early Season Weekly Loss Thresholds (8.2.1)	Nov. 1- Dec. 31	Not in Effect	Dec 1-Dec 31 = 231.64	N/A	N/A	1/5/26	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Natural-origin Winter-run Weekly Loss (8.4.4)	Jan 1 – June 30	In Effect – JPE finalized on 1/8/26.	Week 15 through end of OMR Management (4/9-6/30): 0.0000 x 0.5 x 494.47 = 0.00	7 day rolling sum on 4/20/26: 0	Salvage of natural winter-run is unlikely in the next week based on seasonal migration timing	4/27/26	N/A
Spring-run Protection Action and Surrogate Annual Loss (8.4.5)	Natural-origin: Oct. – June 30 Hatchery-origin: Nov. 1 – June 30	Natural-origin: In effect Hatchery-origin: In effect	Yearling Releases: Group 1: 0.25% of 75,119 = 187.80 Group 2: 0.25% of 60,873 = 152.18 Group 3: 0.25% of 60,873 = 142.77 YOY Releases: Feather River Hatchery: Group 1: 0.25% of 2,034,278 = 5,085.70 Group 2: 0.25% of 488,217 = 1,220.54 Group 3: 0.25% of 511,803 = 1,279.51 Group 4: 0.25% of 290,859 = 727.15 Coleman Fish Hatchery: Group 1: 0.25% of 740,784 = 1,851.96 Group 2: 0.25% of 502,534 = 1,256.34	Confirmed Yearling loss: Group 1: 0 Group 2: 261.65 Group 3: 35.08 Confirmed YOY Loss: Group 1: 0 Group 2: 0 Group 3: 0 Group 4: 0 Group 5: 2.76 Group 6: 0	Salvage of YOY is possible but salvage of yearling is unlikely.	5/4/26	One fish was salvaged from Coleman NFH group 6 on 4/29/26

Table 3b: Delta Smelt

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
First Flush Action (8.3.1)	Dec. 1 – last day of February	Not Active. (Triggered on 12/23/25, in effect 12/25/25 – 1/7/26)	three-day Freeport (FPT) daily flow running avg>= 25,000 AND [three-day Freeport turbidity running avg >=50 NTU OR Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation]	N/A	N/A	1/20/26	N/A
Adult Delta Smelt Entrainment Protection ("Turbidity Bridge Avoidance") (8.3.2)	After First Flush or Dec. 20 until 3-day average temperature at Jersey Point (SJJ) or Rio Vista (RVB) exceeds 12 °C (53.6 °F)	Not Active	Occurs after First Flush or December 20 (whichever comes first) until 3-day average temperature offramp at Jersey Point (SJJ) or Rio Vista (RVB) > 12 °C (53.6 °F) OBI, OSJ, and HOL turbidity>12 FNU Vernalis flow >10,000 cfs (temporary offramp); <8,000 cfs (reinstated)	N/A	N/A	2/23/26	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Larval and Juvenile Delta smelt Protection (8.4.1)	After Adult Delta smelt Entrainment Protection ends	COA 8.4.1: Active, not triggered	SLS/20mm Secchi depth for 12 south Delta stations <= 1m Rio Vista flows >55,0000 cfs or Vernalis flows >8,000 cfs (temporary offramp); <40,000 cfs (Rio Vista) or <5,000 (Vernalis) action reinstated	SLS/20mm Secchi depth for 12 south Delta stations = 1.65 m (20mm 4) Rio Vista: 13,919 cfs Vernalis: 2,266 cfs	Flows and turbidity expected to soon reach their peak following weekend storm, then decline later in the week	5/4/2026	20mm 5 will be on the water 5/11-5/13

Table 3c: Longfin Smelt

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Adult LFS Protection (8.3.3)	Dec. 1 - end of February	Not Active	-Cum. salvage > (Age 1+ LFS Index/20) +1 = 125	N/A	N/A	3/23/26	N/A
Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection (8.4.2)	Jan. 1 – Jun. 30	Active, not triggered	7-day average QWEST < +1,500 cfs, AND LFS larvae or juveniles in most recent SLS or 20 mm survey at 809 & 812 > 50; OR cumulative salvage > 50 or 75% avg annual salvage 2009-present Rio Vista flows >55,0000 cfs or Vernalis flows >8,000 cfs (temporary offramp); <40,000 cfs (Rio Vista) or <5,000 (Vernalis) reinstated	7-day avg QWEST = 4,146 cfs 20mm 4 catch at: 809 = 0 812 = 0 Rio Vista: 13,919 cfs Vernalis: 2,266 cfs	QWest expected to soon peak following weekend storm, then decline later in the week. Larval presence expected to remain stable or decrease at 809/812	5/4/2026	20mm 5 will be on the water 5/11-5/13

Table 3d: White Sturgeon

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
White Sturgeon Entrainment Protection Action (8.4.7)	Year-round	Active; not triggered Flow Conditions: Not met Survey Conditions: Met on 3/16/26 by 20mm catch of 14mm white sturgeon in Sac River, active until 6/14/26	YOY WS detected in one of the listed north or central Delta survey stations in the last 90 days Mean total exports for the last 90 days ≥ 14,296.76 + (-0.41)*(90-day average Vernalis flow	YOY WS detections= 1 on 3/16/26 90-Day Avg Vernalis flows = 3,798cfs 90-Day Avg Exports = 5,744cfs	YOY detections possible Flow/ Exports conditions unlikely to meet criterion	04/07/26	Flow Conditions not met WY 2026 salvage = 0

Table 3e: OMR

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
OMR Storm Flex (8.5)	Start of OMR – Onramp of Larval and Juvenile DS Protection Action (8.4.1) or last day of February (whichever occurs first)	Not In Effect	• Delta is in excess • QWEST is > +1,500 cfs • X2 is < 81 km • Daily average turbidity at OSJ, HOL, and OBI are <12 FNU • Higher level of outflow available for diversion due to storm flows • Measurable amount of precipitation has occurred • None of COA's are controlling operations (8.2.1, 8.3.2, 8.3.3,, 8.4.2, 8.4.3, 8.4.4, 8.4.5, 8.4.7) • Cumulative loss at CVP and SWP of yearling CNFH LFR Chinook salmon (as yearling CHNSR surrogates) is < 0.5% with any of the release groups	7-day avg QWEST = 2,800 cfs X2 = 55 km Daily avg turbidity: OSJ: 7.85 FNU HOL: 5.52 FNU OBI: 5.59 FNU Cumulative Loss of yearling SR surrogates: 224.05	N/A	2/23/2026	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
End of OMR Management (8.6)	Jun. 1 – Jun. 30	Not in effect	Smelt: Daily mean water temperature at Clifton Court Forebay (CLC) is > or equal to 25°C for 3 consecutive days Salmonids: Daily mean water temperature is > 22.2 C at Mossdale and Prisoners Point for 7 days (can be non-consecutive).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spring Outflow (COA 8.12.1)	April 1 – May 31	In effect	Based on the San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type: Critical year: ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 1 to 1. Dry year: ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 2 to 1. Below Normal year: ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 3 to 1. Above Normal/Wet year: ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 4 to 1	April Forecast: Critical year; exports are constrained to 1:1	N/A	4/20/26	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), [5] Unknown (information unconfirmed).

Monitoring survey	Region	Notes (as of 5/5/2026)	Status
SWP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
CVP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
Smelt Larval Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
LES	Delta	Not Active	4
20mm Survey	Delta	Active	1
Fall Mid-water Trawl	Delta	Not Active	4
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 Trawls	Delta	Active (CDFW)	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
Mill Creek RST	Mill Creek	Active	1
Deer Creek RST	Deer Creek	Active	1
Yuba River (Hallwood) RST	Yuba River	Active	1
Butte Creek Carcass Surveys	Butte Creek	Not Active	4
Butte Creek RST	Butte Creek	Active	1
Yolo Bypass Rotary Screw Trap	Yolo Bypass	Active	1
Yolo Bypass Beach Seine	Yolo Bypass	Active	1
Yolo Bypass Fyke Trap	Yolo Bypass	Active	1

Monitoring survey	Region	Notes (as of 5/5/2026)	Status
Redd dewatering and stranding surveys	Sacramento River	Active	1
Sacramento Carcass and Redd Surveys (fall-run Chinook Salmon)	Sacramento River	Active	1
Lower Sacramento RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
Feather River (upper DWR) RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
Feather River (lower CDFW) RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
Feather River Carcass Survey (fall-run Chinook Salmon)	Sacramento River	Active	1
Sonar, telemetry (sturgeon)	Feather River	Active	1
Egg mats (sturgeon)	Feather 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 (steelhead)	San Joaquin River	Not Active	4
Tuolumne Carcass Survey	Tuolumne River	Not Active	4
Merced Carcass Survey	Merced River	Not Active	4
Tuolumne RST	Tuolumne River	Active	1
American River Carcass Survey	Sacramento River	Not Active	4

* Qualitative larval sampling efforts for both the CVP and SWP have concluded and have been removed from the list as of 10/7/25.