



Delta Action Team (DAT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 5/12/26 at 10:00 a.m.

Participants

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)
- Friends of the River
- Kearns & West (K&W)
- Metropolitan Water District (MWD)
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Regional Water Authority
- San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA)
- State Water Contractors (SWC)
- TABES Consulting LLC
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Westlands Water District (WWD)

Action Items

- None

Welcome & Housekeeping

- None

Weekly Operations Update

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations

- DAT reviewed and updated the Fish and Water Operations Outlook document.
- Clear Creek releases at Whiskey Town are currently at 200 cfs and will range between 200 cfs and 550 cfs.
- Sacramento River releases at Keswick Dam are currently at 8,500 cfs and will range between 8,500 cfs and 9,500 cfs.
- Oroville storage was 3.378 MAF as of 5/11.
- Feather River releases are currently at 1,050 cfs and will remain at 1,050 cfs through the week.
- American River releases at Nimbus Dam are currently at 3,500 cfs and will range between 3,500 cfs and 4,000 cfs. Releases may increase pending Folsom inflow forecasts; current storage is near capacity with minimal snowmelt contribution.
- Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently at 1,200 cfs and will range between 900 cfs and 1,800 cfs.
- Freeport flows are currently at 14,200 cfs and will range between 11,000 cfs and 15,000 cfs.
- Vernalis flows are currently at 1,300 cfs and will range between 1,300 cfs and 2,200 cfs.
- Delta outflow is currently at 13,100 cfs and will range between 10,000 cfs and 14,000 cfs.
- Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) is currently at 600 cfs and will remain at 600 cfs for the week.
- Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates are closed, and tides are transitioning from neap to spring; new moon is 5/16.
- Rio Vista flows are currently at 11,500 cfs and will range between 10,000 cfs and 12,000 cfs.
- JPF will range between -400 cfs and 2,100 cfs.
- Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) exports are currently at 900 cfs and will range between 900 cfs and 4,200 cfs. A change order was issued increasing JPP to 3,400 cfs on 5/14. Four units are currently online; a fifth unit is expected back online on 5/18.
- San Luis total storage is currently 1.66 MAF, SWP's share is 878 TAF and CVP's share is 777 TAF (80%).

- Daily QWEST is at 2,000 cfs; the seven-day average is 2,600 cfs and the forecasted seven-day range is between 100 cfs and 2,500 cfs.
- Expected Daily OMR Index is -1,300 cfs; the five-day average is -1,200 cfs and the 14-day average is -1,213 cfs. The OMR range will be between -1,100 cfs to -4,000 cfs.

Questions/Discussions on Weekly Fish and Water Operations

- Reclamation announced the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gate schedule for the 5/21–6/15 window per D-1641. Per the planned schedule, gates will be open for 14 days from: 5/22–5/25, 5/29–5/31, 6/5–6/7, and 6/12–6/15; gates remain open after 6/15. Open periods are timed to weekends to support recreational use.
- TABES Consulting LLC asked whether there had been an operations order change for an increase in JPP and confirmed that the constraint was OMR.
 - Reclamation confirmed a change order was issued that morning for 5/14, increasing JPP from 900 cfs to 3,400 cfs and targeting an OMR of -5,000 cfs.
 - Reclamation added that four units are currently online; a fifth unit is expected back online on 5/18.
- TABES Consulting LLC asked why the OMR value displayed for the week is lower, around -3,400 cfs rather than the -5,000 cfs target, and whether the Delta Cross Channel gate opening/closing schedule is specifically mapped out under D-1641 or whether the requirement is only that gates be opened by a certain date; and why the schedule alternates open and closed in short multi-day patterns.
 - Reclamation clarified that the gates are required to be closed for 14 days between 5/21 and 6/15, and that open periods are timed to weekends for recreational use.
- TABES Consulting LLC asked about implications for use of the intertie during the period when SWP is operating to the ITP one-to-one and CVP has not yet entered the IE.
 - Reclamation stated this is under discussion and there is no clear answer at this time.
- SWRCB asked the purpose of the Delta Cross Channel gate opening schedule.
 - Reclamation clarified that the schedule fulfills a D-1641 requirement, and that open dates are timed to weekends for recreational use.
- WWD asked about the increased reservoir releases at Folsom.
 - Reclamation explained there is minimal snowmelt this year, but Folsom storage is near capacity, and releases may need to increase to 4,000 cfs depending on inflow forecasts.

- WWD asked whether ending the one-to-one period and bringing the fifth JPP unit online would bring the Delta into balanced conditions
 - Reclamation responded that it likely would not and that the timing for balanced conditions is uncertain.
- SWRCB asked whether the OMR values in the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook needed to be updated, noting that the stated target was -5,000 cfs but the documented values were closer to -3,400 cfs.
 - Reclamation clarified that it is operating to its proportional share of -5,000 cfs while SWP is limited by the ITP, and that the displayed values reflect best forecasts given current export plans.
- TABES Consulting LLC followed up asking for a better understanding of why the OMR value displayed for the week is lower rather than the -5,000 cfs target.
 - Reclamation explained that the OMR value reflects ongoing CVP/SWP balancing of exports; Reclamation will possibly target -5,000 cfs but the fifth JPP unit is not expected back online until 5/18, so the actual OMR value will likely fall in the approximate range of -3,400 to -4,000 cfs.
 - DWR added that with JPP at 3,500 cfs and SWP at 600 cfs, the OMR for this week is expected to fall between approximately -1,100 and -3,400 cfs, so the displayed value remains accurate.
 - Reclamation clarified that if the fifth JPP unit returns on 5/18 and exports increase, the OMR value could shift to approximately -3,800 to -4,000 cfs.
- SWRCB suggested adjusting the OMR range to align with the combined export range of 1,500-4,800 cfs.
 - Reclamation supported the update to the OMR range to approximately -1,100 cfs to -4,000 cfs.
- CCWD asked the current ITP ratio under the water year type.
 - DWR confirmed the San Joaquin Valley Index is below normal but not dry, so the ratio remains two-to-one.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Species Tables Updates

- A row was added to track end-of-smelt entrainment management season. The trigger is daily average water temperature at Clifton Court Forebay (station CLC) greater than or equal to 25 °C for three consecutive days, or June 30, whichever occurs first. Recent CLC daily temperatures (20.8 °C, 21.1 °C, 21.9 °C) are trending upward; the temperature trigger is likely to be met before 6/30.
- DWR updated Table 3a. No additional clipped fish have been observed for any concerned groups; the Group 5 hatchery loss reported last week remains unchanged with no new loss.

- See the Weekly Operations reports for additional detail.

Questions/Discussions on Operations Outlook Species Tables Updates

- None

Proposed Action Assessments

Proposed Action Assessment Update

- Reclamation presented the combined assessment for the week.
- The only annual loss change this week was to hatchery steelhead. Cumulative hatchery steelhead loss is now 1,890, representing 28% of the annual threshold.

Zone of Influence (ZOI)

- Current Delta hydrology falls in the medium-low (medlow) category; seven-day forecasted conditions are projected to fall in the medium-medium (medmed) category.

Salmonid Proposed Action Assessment

- STARS estimates: overall apparent survival probability is 0.02; interior Delta apparent survival probability is 0.01; Delta routing is 0.13.
- Loss predictors continue a slight upward trend but remain within observed values.
- Overall evaluation shows low risk of exceeding loss thresholds in the upcoming week for all species.

ESA and CESA Osmerids

Proposed Action Assessment

- No actions are at risk of being triggered

Delta Smelt

- Total water-year count remains 74 Delta smelt (44 adults, 30 juveniles). EDSM is currently in its 20 mm phase, so detections are provisionally marked as *Hypomesus* sp. pending genetic verification; recent detections may therefore appear low.
- Adult entrainment action was off-ramped over a month ago and remains inactive in WY26.
- Larval/juvenile entrainment evaluation: the turbidity trigger has not been met. The most recent 11-station South Delta turbidity was 4.2 FNU as of 4/29. 20 mm survey 5 is on the water this week; an updated turbidity value is expected today or tomorrow.
- Entrainment risk to Delta smelt larvae is very low given current turbidity. Particle tracking modeling for neutrally buoyant particles across OMR scenarios (-2,000,

-3,500, and -5,000 cfs) showed 0% particle entrainment at both facilities. Entrainment risk to Delta smelt larvae is therefore very low given current turbidity.

Longfin Smelt

- Larval and juvenile longfin smelt continue to be detected in surveys; SacPaS data has some delay and will be updated when possible.
- Conditions for the adult entrainment protection action are not met. No adult longfin smelt have been detected or salvaged this water year.
- For the larval/juvenile entrainment protection action, JPF may decrease below 0 cfs this week, but particle tracking and zone of influence modeling indicate very low entrainment risk. The larval population estimate model continues to rely on SLS survey data, which has not yet been updated to 20 mm data, so model results should be interpreted with caution. Particle tracking for surface-oriented particles injected at Chipps Island and Jersey Point showed 0-0.1% entrainment at the projects for all OMR scenarios.
- See Appendix A of the combined assessment for additional model results.
- CCF temperatures (at station CLC) are approaching the 25 °C end-of-entrainment-management trigger; recent daily temperatures were 20.8 °C, 21.1 °C, and 21.9 °C, and the temperature trigger is likely to be met before 6/30.

Questions/Discussions on Proposed Action Assessments

- None

Next DAT Meeting

- The next Delta Action Team Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 5/19/26.