BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook

1/6/2026 – 1/12/2026

Water Project Operational Intent for Week

CVP and SWP operations are expected to be implemented so that the 14-day averaged OMRI will not be more negative than –5,000 cfs.

Biological Context

First Flush Action is defined as 3-day average Freeport flow ≥ 25,000 cfs and 3-day average Freeport turbidity ≥ 50 FNU and was triggered on 12/23/2025.

On 12/25/2025, DWR, in coordination with Reclamation, began to operate to OMRI no more negative than –3,500 cfs. With high QWEST flows, DWR and USBR began operating to OMRI no more negative than –5,000 cfs on 12/26/2025.

During the first 2 days, there was salvage of spring-run salmon. Due to that salvage, DWR changed SWP exports back to the proportional share of OMRI no more negative than –3,500 cfs starting 12/29/2025.

On 1/3/2026, QWEST increased above +10,000 cfs. Beginning 1/4/2026 to current, DWR and Reclamation began operating to OMRI no more negative than –5,000 cfs.

The DCC gates remain closed to protect migrating salmonids.

Forecasted Weather

Drier conditions are expected on Tuesday and Wednesday before another system arrives. It appears that the bulk of the precipitation will occur in Shasta County. Quieter offshore conditions are forecast for most of the Sacramento Valley, as ridging builds offshore. The ridging is expected to increase fog and low cloud development in low-lying areas with drier and warmer conditions above 1500 feet.

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: 300 cfs	• Spring-run Chinook Salmon juveniles are emerging, rearing, and out-migrating • Fall-run Chinook Salmon eggs are hatching and some juveniles emerging. • Adult O. mykiss/steelhead are entering the creek and migrating upstream. • Adult Late-fall run Chinook Salmon are entering and spawning • (Updated 12/22/2025)
Sacramento River	• Shasta Storage: 3.509 MAF • Current Release: 10,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 10,000 cfs to 15,000 cfs	• LAD juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon are emerging and migrating downstream • Most Winter-run Chinook have emerged and have migrated downstream past RBDD. • Spring-run Chinook juveniles are being caught in low and decreasing numbers. Fall-run Chinook juveniles are beginning to outmigrate in slowly increasing numbers. • Fall-run Chinook Salmon adults have completed spawning activities. Eggs and fry are in the gravel with juveniles beginning to outmigrate in slowly increasing numbers. • Late fall-run Chinook Salmon are migrating upstream, preparing to spawn, and are actively spawning. Early eggs are in the gravel • (Updated 12/30/2025)

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Feather River	• Oroville Storage: 2.317 MAF • Current Release: 15,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 3,000 cfs to 15,000 cfs • Daily temperature maximum: 55 +/- 4°F at Fish Hatchery	• Fall-run Chinook Salmon spawning complete, juveniles emerging and migrating downstream. • Spring-run Chinook Salmon juveniles migrating downstream • Adult *O. mykiss* are migrating upstream. • Green Sturgeon holding at the outlet and Sunset Pumps. • (Updated 12/30/2025)
American River	• Folsom Storage: 612 TAF • Current Release: 11,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 6,000 cfs to 11,000 cfs	• Fall-run Chinook Salmon adult spawning has slowed down for the season. • Eggs are incubating in the gravel. • (Updated 12/08/2025)
Stanislaus River	• New Melones Storage: 1.726 MAF • Current Release: 200 cfs • Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 200 cfs to 400 cfs	• Adult fall-run Chinook Salmon spawning has slowed for the season. • Eggs are incubating in the gravel. • Spring-run fry are emerging and moving downstream. • Fall-run fry are also likely moving downstream with the increases in flow. • (Updated 12/23/2025)

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Delta	• Freeport: 50,000 cfs to 66,000 cfs • Vernalis: 2,000 cfs to 7,000 cfs • Delta Outflow index: 50,000 to 120,000 cfs • Combined Exports: 4,900 to 9,200 cfs • JPP: 3,500 cfs to 4,200 cfs • CCF: 1,400 cfs to 5,000 cfs • Expected Daily OMR Index Values: -4,500 cfs to – 5,000 cfs • Rio Vista Flows: 45,000 cfs to 99,000 cfs • DCC Gates: Closed • X2 at 59 km • Qwest daily: 12,700 cfs • Qwest 7-day: 11,100 cfs • Expected Daily JPF: 7,000 cfs to 21,000 cfs • Tides: Transition from Spring to Neap; First Quarter Moon on Jan. 10.	• LAD Spring-run and Winter-run Chinook salmon juveniles are being observed migrating and rearing by monitoring surveys. • 163,349 unmarked Delta smelt were released in fall 2025. A total of 29 adult and 22 juvenile Delta smelt have been observed in Suisun Marsh, the lower Sacramento River and the Sacramento DW Ship Channel. The most recent observation was of 2 adults and 1 juvenile smelt in Suisun Marsh on 01/02/26 • A total of 132 sub-adult and adult Longfin Smelt have been observed in the Chipps Island Trawl for WY2026, with 78 being in the last two weeks. Three larval Longfin Smelt have also been detected, one in the confluence and two in the lower Sacramento River. • Unclipped genetically confirmed and LAD fall-run and spring-run are being salvaged at Federal facility • Clipped LAD spring-run fish are being salvaged at Federal and State facilities. • (Updated 1/5/2026)

Table 2: WY 2026 Salmonid Current Loss and Delta and Longfin Smelt Abiotic Conditions. 1Based on combined releases and estimated survival across Coleman, Feather River, Nimbus, and Mokelumne hatcheries. 2No operational threshold for unclipped steelhead. Incidental Take Limit from NMFS 2024 Biological Opinion.

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Green sturgeon	Annual = 14 3-year rolling average = 5	salvage = 6	Occasional salvage possible	12/23/25

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Winter-run Chinook Salmon juveniles (JPE= TBD)	Genetically confirmed unclipped = TBD LSNFH releases = TBD	Confirmed loss= 0 LSNFH loss = 0	Salvage is possible in the upcoming week. *LAD WR was salvaged but genetically identified as Latefall	12/29/25
Central Valley Steelhead	1Clipped = 3565 2Unclipped = 5294	Hatchery Loss = 21.76 (0.6% of threshold) Natural-origin loss = 2.72 (0.05%)	Salvage of clipped and unclipped fish is likely to continue in the upcoming week.	01/05/26
Spring-run Chinook salmon surrogate releases	Yearling: 1% of 75,119 = 751 60,873 = 609 Young of Year= TBD	Yearling loss = 0 Young of Year loss = 0	Salvage is possible in the upcoming week.	12/23/25
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.	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	Will become active, not triggered 1/7/26 Daily JPF: 7,866 cfs Turbidity: OBI = 5.88 FNU OSJ = 21.84 FNU HOL = 6.43 FNU Rio Vista temp: RVB = 10.37	Turbidity is high	1/5/26

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Delta smelt larvae and juveniles	After onset of spawning, if JPF < 0 AND turbidity is ≥12 FNU in the south Delta	Will become active 1/7/26 Daily JPF: 7,866 cfs Avg turbidity in south Delta: (as of 12/30/25) 19.1 FNU	Turbidity in south Delta is moderate/high	1/5/26
Longfin smelt adults	If JPF < 0 and assessment indicates annual loss will exceed 5% of adult population abundance	Will become active, not triggered 1/7/26 Daily JPF: 7,866 cfs Annual loss of adult LFS: 0	No WY26 salvage to date	1/5/26
Longfin smelt larvae and juveniles	If JPF < 0 and population model indicates need to reduce entrainment to avoid population decline	Will become active, not triggered 1/7/26 Daily JPF: 7,866 cfs	No WY26 salvage to date	1/5/26

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	1/5/26	Triggered on 12/23/25 and operations began on 12/25/25.

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Winter-run Annual Loss (8.4.3)	July 1 - Jun. 30	In Effect	Natural-origin Winter-run Loss Threshold: TBD -Hatchery-origin Winter-run Loss Threshold: TBD -Battle Creek Loss threshold: TBD	Confirmed Genetic WR Annual Loss = 0 Hatchery origin Winter-run Loss = 0 Battle Creek Winter-run Loss = 0	Possible observation of salvage of natural winter-run based on historical salvage.	1/5/26	N/A
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
Natural-origin Winter-run Weekly Loss (8.4.4)	Jan 1 – June 30	In Effect	Thresholds based on Table 4, Column E of 2024 SWP ITP: [Annual Loss Threshold (based on JPE surrogate) x 50% of Annual Loss Threshold x Winter-run in Delta (based on Column E)] Interim Value for 1/1 /26-1/7/26 threshold: 3.74	Interim Value for threshold: 3.74	N/A	12/29/25	Unclipped LAD Older Juvenile salvaged on 1/2/26 but confirmed as Late fall per Genetics assignment. discussing the final JPE

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
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	Group 1: 0.25% of 75,119 = 187.80 Group 2: 0.25% of 60,873 = 152.18	Confirmed loss for Group 1: 0 Confirmed loss for Group 2: 2.88	Yearling natural spring-run salvage possible in next week	1/5/26	Schedule for group 3 of CNFH LF release awaiting SaMT and WoMT approval

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	Active, triggered on 12/23/25	three-day Freeport (FPT) daily flow running avg>= 25,000 AND [three-day Freeport turbidity running avg >=50 NTU OR Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation]	3-day FPT flow = 68,156 cfs 3-day FPT turbidity = 104 FNU	Flow and turbidity expected to decrease but remain elevated	12/29/25	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Adult Delta Smelt Entrainment Protection (“Turbidity Bridge Avoidance”) (8.3.2)	After IEWPP or Dec. 20 until 3-day average temperatures at Jersey Point (SJJ) or Rio Vista (RVB) exceed 12 °C (53.6 °F)	Active	Occurs after the Integrated Early Winter Pulse protection 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)	Daily avg turbidity: OSJ: 18.41 FNU HOL: 2.68 FNU OBI: 2.49 FNU Vernalis Daily Avg Flow: 3,522 cfs	Turbidity not anticipated to increase over 12 FNU in OId River Vernalis flows decreasing	12/29/25	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	Not active	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	N/A	N/A	10/14/25	N/A

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	Active, not triggered	-Cum. salvage > (Age 1+ LFS Index/20) +1 = 125	Cum. Salvage = 0	N/A	12/29/25	August – December Index = 2479.2
Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection (8.4.2)	Jan. 1 – Jun. 30	Not active	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	N/A	N/A	10/14/25	N/A

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: Not Met	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= None in last 90 days 90-Day Avg Vernalis flows = 1,879cfs 90-Day Avg Exports = 6,203cfs	YOY detections possible Flow/ Exports conditions unlikely to meet criterion	12/30/25	Survey and 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	N/A	N/A	N/A	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	Not in effect	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	N/A	N/A	N/A	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 12/30/2025)	Status
SWP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
CVP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
Smelt Larval Survey	Delta	Active	1
LES	Delta	Not Active	4
20mm Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
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 (USFWS)	1
USGS Flow monitoring	Delta	Active	1
Red Bluff Diversion Dam Rotary Screw Trap (RST)	Sacramento River	Active	1
Knights Landing RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
Tisdale RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
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	Not Active	4

Monitoring Survey	Region	Notes (as of 12/30/2025)	Status
Yolo Bypass Beach Seine	Yolo Bypass	Active	1
Yolo Bypass Fyke Trap	Yolo Bypass	Active	1
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	Not Active	4
Feather River (upper DWR) RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
Feather River (lower CDFW) RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
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	Active	1
Tuolumne Carcass Survey	Tuolumne River	Not Active	4
Merced Carcass Survey	Merced River	Not Active	4
Tuolumne RST	Tuolumne River	Not Active	4
American River Carcass Survey	Sacramento River	Active	1

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