



Delta Action Team (DAT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 1/27/26 at 10:00 a.m.

Participants

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Contra Costa Water District
- Friant Water Authority
- Kearns & West (K&W)
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority
- State Water Contractors
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Westlands Water District (WWD)

Welcome & Housekeeping

- Reclamation clarified a station code update for CDEC. Due to a failing piling, Reclamation relocated equipment from San Joaquin at Jersey Point (SJJ) about 100 yards downstream. The station code will change from SJJ to San Joaquin West (SJW), and all new temperature, turbidity, and connectivity data will be reported under SJW. Dissolved oxygen, pH, and fDOM data will also be uploaded in the next few days.
 - [CDEC station page \(SJW\)](#) linked here.

- Flow and velocity data will remain under SJJ, as these measurements are collected and managed separately by USGS.

Weekly Operations Update

Operational Intent

- USBR and DWR both operating to OMRI -5,000 cfs.

Depending on end-of-month Electro Conductivity (EC) conditions, DWR may need to trigger compliance actions for the Port Chicago X2 requirement, which could require Lake Oroville releases ranging from 1,750 to 7,000 cfs.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations

- DAT reviewed and updated the Fish and Water Operations Outlook document.
 - Sacramento River releases at Keswick Dam are currently at 6,500 cfs and will range between 5,500 cfs and 10,000 cfs.
 - Oroville storage is 2.797 MAF as of 1/26/26. Feather River releases are currently at 1,750 cfs and will range between 1,750 cfs to 7,000 cfs.
 - American River releases at Nimbus Dam are 3,500 cfs and will remain at this level.
 - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently 300 cfs and will range between 300-600 cfs.
 - Freeport flows are currently at 29,000 cfs and will range between 18,000 cfs to 31,000 cfs.
 - Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) is currently at 2,800 cfs and, depending on X2 compliance needs, could range from 1,000 to 7,000 cfs.
 - Vernalis flows are currently at 2,100 cfs and will range between 1,500 cfs and 2,200 cfs.
 - Delta outflow is at 25,000 cfs and will range between 15,000 to 28,000 cfs.
 - San Luis total storage is currently 1.6 MAF, SWP's share is 985 TAF and CVP's is 582 TAF (60%).
 - Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) exports are 3,500 cfs and will range between 1,900 cfs to 3,500 cfs.
 - QWEST is at 1,600 cfs and seven-day average is 2,800 cfs.
 - Expected Daily OMR Index is -4,900 cfs and will range between -3,500 to -5,000. Expected five-day OMR average is -4,900 cfs and 14-day average is -4,400 cfs.

Questions/Discussions on Weekly Fish and Water Operations

- None

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Species Tables Updates

- DWR incorporated updates to Item 3a; no overview was provided during the meeting.

Questions/Discussions on Operations Outlook Species Tables Updates

- MWD confirmed the corrected group 2 spring-run surrogate loss is 257 (previously 267).

Proposed Action Assessments Update

Execute Summary

- Salmonid entrainment management remains active, with thresholds met for DNA winter-run 0 (0.00%), hatchery winter-run 0 (0.00%), natural steelhead 47 (0.88%), hatchery steelhead 153 (2.59%), and spring-run surrogates 1,013 (46.08%).
- Winter-run Chinook salmon abundance in the Delta is declining, while steelhead presence remains high (near historical peak levels).
- Osmerid entrainment management is active, with smelt detected at Chipps Island and in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel; however, no Delta smelt or longfin smelt salvage has been observed.
- Turbidity in the central and south Delta remains low-moderate.

Current Delta Hydrologic Conditions

- Figures were updated with the latest Freeport and Vernalis flows, OMR period averages (multiple averaging periods), and most recent export rates, including the two main actions implemented this water year.
- Entrainment management is the current controlling factor.

Zone of Influence

- Current conditions are in the high-medium (himed) category.
- Forecasted conditions over the next seven days fall in the high-low (hilo) category.
- Altered channel lengths between OMRI levels total 88 km for current conditions and 26 km for forecasted conditions, indicating decreased ZOI impacts across forecasted OMR scenarios.

Salmonid Proposed Action Assessment

- Reclamation shared the Salmonid Proposed Action Assessment.

Current Status

- JPE for winter-run Chinook salmon is 1,057,452; Winter-run Chinook salmon show 82% entering the Delta based on Knights Landing RST catch, 2% exiting at Chipps Island Trawl, and 2% DNA-confirmed salvaged; no loss has been observed to date.
- The STARS assessment indicates medium survivability for all daily cohorts.
- JPE for winter-run hatchery Chinook salmon is 130,096 based on current Livingston production; no hatchery releases occurred in WY2026; no loss has been observed to date.
- Natural-origin Central Valley steelhead data show 32% entering the Delta, 4% exiting, and 9% have been salvaged; cumulative loss is 47 (0.88% of the annual loss threshold); cumulative loss in the past seven days has been 5.
 - There have been 5 hatchery releases of Central Valley steelhead totaling 1,373,848 steelhead in WY206; releases have occurred at Nimbus, Coleman, and Feather River hatcheries; cumulative loss is 153 (2.59% of the annual loss threshold); Hatchery origin of salvaged fish is currently unknown; salvage is estimated assuming similar routing and survival across hatchery releases.
- Spring-run Chinook salmon surrogate data show 28% entering, 0% exiting, and 0% salvaged; loss is occurring; 805,323 have been released in WY2026 with a JPE of 219,852 entering the Delta including late Fall-run Chinook salmon; releases have occurred at Coleman National Fish Hatchery across 12 coded-wire tag groups.
- Historical loss for natural Winter-run Chinook salmon is 2.8% and 0.88% for steelhead.
- Risk of exceeding natural or hatchery Winter-run Chinook salmon and steelhead loss thresholds in the next week is low.

Smelt Proposed Action Assessment

- Reclamation shared the Smelt Proposed Action Assessment.
- Delta smelt are currently at the adult life stage
- The updated EDSM Delta smelt abundance estimate is 258 for 1/19/26–1/23/26; calculated with a 95% confidence interval of 16 to 1,219.
- No additional Delta smelt releases are planned; releases are complete for the water year.
- WY2026 detection totals are 35 adult and 24 juvenile Delta Smelt; most recent detections are 2 adults.
- Longfin smelt are currently at the larval, juvenile, and adult life stages; detections in WY2026 show 305 adults, 489 juveniles, and 446 larvae; no salvage has occurred.

Real-time Assessment Thresholds

- No immediate implementation action for adult Delta smelt indicated based on current JPF, turbidity, and temperature conditions. Recent captures of 2 adult Delta smelt at Chipps Island, and the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel indicate upstream spawning migration into tidal freshwater habitats.
- No adult Delta smelt protections have been off ramped based on the most temperature 10.5°C (As of 1/26/26), which has not crossed the 12°C threshold.
- For larval/juvenile Delta JPF is not expected to drop below 0 cfs this week and turbidity is low-moderate, so conditions are not met.
- No immediate implementation of entrainment management for larval; juvenile; and adult longfin smelt based on current conditions.
- Stantec longfin smelt particle tracking model uses SLS data combined with particle tracking models to estimate longfin smelt abundance within defined Delta regions and potential entrainment at the projects.
- For larval/juvenile longfin smelt
 - JPF is not less than 0 but may drop below 0 on 1/31-2/1; if JPF drops below 0, zone of influence modeling indicates only moderate changes in hydrodynamic footprint across OMR scenarios and the longfin smelt larval population and particle tracking analysis demonstrates very low larval longfin smelt entrainment across all OMRI levels this week, so a population-level decline during this assessment period is not expected; no longfin smelt have been detected in salvage.

Questions/Discussions on Proposed Action Assessments

- None

Open Discussion

- WWD asked about the drivers of JPP lower bound export levels.
 - Reclamation confirmed that new requirements beginning in February will result in reduced exports.

Next DAT Meeting

- The next Delta Action Team Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 2/3/26.