



## **Delta Action Team (DAT) Weekly Meeting**

Teams call: 2/17/26 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Participants**

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Contra Costa Water District
- Friant Water Authority
- Friends of the River
- Kearns & West (K&W)
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA)
- State Water Contractors (SWC)
- 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**

- None.

### **Weekly Operations Update**

#### **Operational Intent**

- CVP is evaluating potential for storm flex under Action 5.

## **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 11,500 cfs and will range between 8,000 cfs and 11,500 cfs.
  - Sacramento River releases at Keswick Dam are currently at 6,000 cfs and will range between 5,800 cfs and 8,000 cfs.
  - Feather River releases are currently at 4,000 cfs and will range between 3,000 cfs and 5,000 cfs. Oroville storage is 2.7 TAF as of 2/16.
  - American River releases at Nimbus Dam are 2,500 cfs.
  - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently 200 cfs and will range between 200 cfs and 1,200 cfs.
  - Freeport flows are currently at 34,000 cfs and will range between 30,000 cfs and 50,000 cfs.
  - Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 2,600 cfs and will range between 2,000 cfs and 5,000 cfs.
  - Vernalis flows are currently at 3,000 cfs and will range between 3,000 cfs and 7,500 cfs.
  - Delta outflow is currently at 33,000 cfs and will range between 40,000 cfs and 65,000 cfs.
  - Rio Vista flows are currently at 30,000 cfs and will range between 32,000 cfs and 45,000 cfs.
  - San Luis total storage is currently 1.65 MAF, SWP's share is 1,016 TAF and CVP's is 629 TAF (65%).
  - Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) exports are 4,200 cfs and will be maintained at this level.
  - JPF will range between 3,000 cfs to 16,000 cfs.
  - Daily QWEST is at 3,100 cfs and seven-day average is 2,500 cfs.
  - Expected Daily OMR Index is -4,900 cfs. Expected five-day OMR average is -4,600 cfs, seven-day average is -4,100 cfs, and the 14-day average is -3,500 cfs.

### ***Questions/Discussions on Weekly Fish and Water Operations***

- Reclamation requested adding language under operational intent, noting the federal side is evaluating potential storm flex implementation under Action 5.
  - USFWS asked about the CVP decision timeline and noted a discrepancy between the ITP trigger (6,250 cfs) and CVP trigger (6,500 cfs).

- Reclamation acknowledged the discrepancy, and stated documentation would accompany any decision.

### **Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Species Tables Updates**

- DWR updated Table 3a and provided an overview to date
  - Loss values under Item 8.4.4 have been updated to reflect identified clipped spring-run Chinook salmon from release groups 2 and 3.
- No unclipped older juvenile salmon were salvaged in the last week.
- Two length-at-date spring-run Chinook salmon were salvaged on 2/14 and 2/16 and sent for rapid genetic analysis; results are pending and will be shared when available.
- Two coded-wire-tagged (CWT) fish were salvaged at the Skinner Fish Facility and are currently being processed; tag code information will be shared once processing is complete.

### ***Questions/Discussions on Operations Outlook Species Tables Updates***

- None.

## **Proposed Action Assessments**

### **Proposed Action Assessments Update**

- Reclamation presented the combined assessment for the week.

### ***Zone of Influence***

- Zone of influence modeling indicates altered channel length differences between OMR scenarios decreased from 88 kilometers under current conditions to 15 kilometers under forecasted conditions.

### **Salmonid Proposed Action Assessment**

- Cumulative loss to date includes:
  - 4 natural winter-run Chinook salmon, representing 0.07% of the incidental take limit (ITL) and 0.03% of the annual loss threshold.
  - 0 hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon.
  - 87 natural steelhead, representing 1.64% of the ITL.
  - 552 hatchery steelhead, representing 9.34% of the annual loss threshold.
  - 1,041 spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates, representing 47% of the annual loss threshold.
- Spring-run surrogate losses by release group include:
  - 0 in Group 1

- 257 in Group 2 representing 84%,
- 25 in Group 3 representing 8.6%.
- Length-at-date winter-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead presence remain high based on historical monitoring data.
- Estimated survival and routing probabilities for winter-run Chinook salmon, based on STARS modeling, remain steady.
- Predicted loss may increase, but overall risk remains low and loss thresholds are not expected to be exceeded.

### ***Delta Smelt***

- Delta smelt are present in the adult and juvenile life stages.
- The most recent abundance estimate is 1,769 during the week of 2/2 to 2/6.
- Cumulative detections to date include 36 adult Delta smelt and 29 juvenile Delta smelt. No Delta smelt have been salvaged this water year.
  - Recent detections include:
    - 4 juvenile Delta smelt detected in EDSM on 2/10 in Suisun Marsh
    - 1 adult Delta smelt in EDSM on 2/6. No changes in distribution or detection patterns were noted this week.
- The adult Delta smelt entrainment action has been off ramped after Jersey Point temperatures exceeded the 12°C threshold
- The 12-station South Delta turbidity was 5.7 FNU as of 2/11.
- JPF is predicted to remain above 0 cfs, and turbidity in the OMR corridor is not expected to exceed thresholds this week.
- Estimated hydrodynamic and entrainment risk conditions remain unchanged, and no Delta smelt entrainment management actions are currently triggered.
- Evidence for the onset of Delta smelt spawning was unchanged from last week.
- Although spawning may occur during the assessment period, JPF remains above 0 and turbidity remains low, and conditions required to trigger larval and juvenile Delta smelt entrainment management are not met.

### ***Longfin Smelt***

- Cumulative detections this water year include:
  - 354 adult longfin smelt
  - 683 juvenile longfin smelt
  - 1,300 larval longfin smelt.

- No longfin smelt have been salvaged.
- JPF was 2,451 cfs as of 2/12 and remains above 0 cfs. Conditions required to trigger adult or juvenile longfin smelt entrainment management have not been met.
- Zone of influence modeling indicates moderate differences in hydrodynamic footprint across OMR scenarios, with impacts decreasing between current and forecasted conditions.
- Particle tracking modeling (PTM) and zone of influence modeling prepared by Stantec will be included as an appendix to support future assessments.

### ***Real-time Assessment Thresholds***

- None.

### ***Questions/Discussions on Proposed Action Assessments***

- USFWS mentioned that the SWP ITP and the CVP Action 5 are not aligned regarding XXX and asked if the Secchi depth is less than 1 meter for the SWP and they start implementing their actions, will the CVP begin implementing their proportional share or will there be a meeting to discuss?
  - DWR shared that in a situation where the ITP is triggered and Action 5 is not triggered, then DWR would create its own assessment and coordinate with CDFW on operational decisions. If it was decided that there was an OMR restriction, then it would be a proportional share situation if Reclamation was not operating to the same OMR.
- USFWS asked for confirmation that the group had transitioned to the adult entrainment period.
  - Reclamation confirmed the adult entrainment action was off-ramped after Jersey Point temperatures exceeded 12°C on February 10–12, and Table 2A was updated accordingly.

### **Open Discussion**

- Reclamation confirmed with USFWS that FAWOG comments on last week's risk assessment were received.

### **Action Items**

- The next Delta Action Team Meeting is on 2/24/26