



Delta Action Team (DAT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 3/24/26 at 10:00 a.m.

Participants

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)
- Friant Water Authority (FWA)
- Friends of the River
- Kearns & West (K&W)
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)
- 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)
- San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

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 275 cfs.
 - Sacramento River releases at Keswick Dam are currently at 4,000 cfs.
 - Oroville storage was 3.035 as of 3/23 and is currently 3.038 MAF. Feather River releases are currently at 4,500 cfs and will range between 1,750 cfs to 5,500 cfs. Releases will be reduced to 3,500 cfs later today and to 1,750 later this week.
 - American River releases at Nimbus Dam are currently at 1,500 cfs will range between 1,100 cfs and 1,500 cfs. Releases are scheduled to reduce to 1,100 cfs on 3/26.
 - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently at 200 cfs.
 - Freeport flows are currently at 19,100 cfs and will range between 14,000 cfs and 20,000 cfs.
 - Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 3,200 cfs and will range between 1,300 cfs and 3,200 cfs.
 - Vernalis flows are currently at 3,000 cfs and will range between 2,200 cfs and 3,200 cfs.
 - Delta outflow is currently at 15,600 cfs and will range between 10,000 cfs and 16,000 cfs.
 - Rio Vista flows are currently at 15,600 cfs and will range between 11,000 cfs and 16,200 cfs.
 - San Luis total storage is currently 2.81 MAF, SWP's share is 1.05 TAF and CVP's was 765 TAF (79%) as of 3/23, and levels are slightly higher as of 3/24.
 - JPP exports are at 3,500 cfs.
 - JPF fell below 0 to -66 cfs on 3/23 and will range between 124 cfs to -1,000 cfs. Flows are expected to continue decreasing.
 - Daily QWEST is at -67 cfs and seven-day average is 4,754 cfs. Forecasted seven-day range will be between -1,000 cfs to 21,500 cfs.
 - Expected Daily OMR Index is -4,900 cfs. Expected five-day OMR average is -3,800 cfs, and the 14-day average is -4,500 cfs.

Questions/Discussions on Weekly Fish and Water Operations

- WWD asked whether the JPF reduction was driven by the X2 or D-1641 requirements and about the status of Port Chicago's 19th day EC requirement, as DWR's (3/23) [Delta Water Quality Conditions report](#) showed it had not yet been met.
 - Reclamation clarified that the reduction was driven by coordinated operations between federal and state projects to ensure OMR does not reduce to levels below -5,000 cfs.
 - Reclamation confirmed that Port Chicago is currently one day short of its 19-day EC requirement and noted that staff are currently evaluating data and conditions to achieve compliance by the end of the month.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Species Tables Updates

- Reclamation updated confirmed natural origin genetic loss to 45.43 in Table2a to reflect genetic confirmation that a Central Valley Project (CVP) Length at Date (LAD) salvaged on 3/20 is a true winter run.
- DWR updated Table 3a and provided an overview to date.
- DWR will continue to closely monitor these metrics, as most of the reported values fall under the Incidental Take Permit (ITP).
 - Hatchery winter-run loss remains unchanged, with no salvage reported from the group of concern.
 - Numerous CWT salvage from the San Joaquin River Restoration Project's experimental release group have been observed.

Proposed Action Assessments

Proposed Action Assessments Update

- Reclamation presented the weekly combined assessment.

Zone of Influence

- Current and 7-day forecasted delta hydrology fall in the 'medmed' (medium-medium) category.

Salmonid Proposed Action Assessment

- As of 3/24, cumulative annual losses for Sacramento River are 45.43 (0.43% of annual loss threshold) natural winter-run; 62 (4.78% of annual loss threshold) hatchery winter-run; 210 natural steelhead; 1,446 (22.83% of annual loss threshold) hatchery steelhead; and 1058 (11.08% of annual loss threshold) spring-run surrogates.
- LAD winter-run Chinook salmon and steelhead presence in the Delta remains high based on historical monitoring.

- STARS estimated overall survival probability ranged from 0.04-0.18 as of 3/21.
- STARS estimated routing and survival probabilities are .1 to .15 and .01 to .09 respectively.
- ECO PTM evaluation period is from 03/17/2026 to 04/06/2026 with particles injected on 03/17/2026 at Sacramento River and at Freeport.
- Loss prediction and trajectories are for winter run Chinook salmon and steelhead.
- Overall evaluation shows low risk of exceeding loss thresholds in the upcoming week for natural and hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon, steelhead, and spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates.

ESA and CESA Osmerids

Proposed Action Assessment

- No actions are at risk of being triggered.

Delta Smelt

- Delta smelt are currently at the adult life stage.
- Abundance estimate for 3/16-3/20 was 1,984 (95% CL: 161 to 8,688).
- Delta smelt count for WY26 is 73, including 43 adults and 30 juveniles.
- One Delta smelt has been salvaged to date, and cumulative seasonal salvage remains at 4.
- One adult Delta smelt was detected in the last two weeks in Suisun Marsh.
- Adult Delta smelt entrainment action remains inactive, and no action was taken in WY2026.
- Larval and juvenile Delta smelt entrainment action was not triggered. Although JPF is below 0 and is expected to continue to decrease, the 3/16 20-mm survey of 11 of the 12 stations recorded an average turbidity of 5.0 FNU, which remains below the 12 FNU threshold.
- No Delta smelt larvae have been captured in SLS or 20-millimeter survey as of 3/24 and PTM results for neutrally buoyant particles injected at Chipps Island show 0% entrainment at both facilities for all OMR levels.

Longfin Smelt

- Longfin smelt are in the adult, juvenile, and larval life stages.
- Detections to date include 443 adults, 1,031 juveniles, and 5,448 larvae.
- No action criteria are met for either adult, or juvenile and larval longfin smelt, although JPF is below 0.

- No adult longfin smelt salvage has been observed in WY2026, which indicates annual loss is on trajectory to approach the 5% regulatory threshold of 125 fish.
- PTM and zone of influence modeling indicate a low risk of entrainment for larval and juvenile longfin smelt population. PTM and Zone of Influence modeling indicate low entrainment risk for larval and juvenile Longfin Smelt. Estimated entrainment remains $\leq 0.1\%$ of the estimated larval population across all OMR scenarios, and the modeled hydrodynamic footprint does not extend into the western and far western areas where most larvae and juveniles have been detected.

Questions/Discussions on Proposed Action Assessments

- Mia noted that participants can share comments or suggested revisions to the assessment questions during the meeting or directly with Reclamation via email.

Next DAT Meeting

- The next Delta Action Team Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 3/31/26.