BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook

10/21/2025 – 10/27/2025

Water Project Operational Intent for Week

Current Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) operations are primarily governed by D-1641 standards such as required minimum Delta Outflow, the Rock Slough daily maximum salinity standard (250 Chlorides) and the maximum allowable Export/Inflow ratio of 0.65.

Biological Context

No ESA protective actions have been “triggered” to date for early WY 2026.

Forecasted Weather

Dry weather with near normal temperatures for most of the week. Potential storms could bring rain, snow and winds to Northern California late in the week into the weekend.

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: 225 cfs	Spring-run Chinook Salmon eggs are incubating. Adult fall-run Chinook Salmon are spawning and their eggs are incubating. O.mykiss/steelhead are entering the creek and migrating upstream. (Updated 10/20/2025)
Sacramento River	Shasta Storage: 2.597 MAF Current Release: 7,200 cfs Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 7,000 cfs to 7,200 cfs	Winter-run Chinook Salmon fry are emigrating past RBDD in the 1000's per day range (peak emigration period). Based on historical observations, fall-run Chinook Salmon yearlings are expected to be sporadically migrating downstream. Spring-run Chinook Salmon adults are spawning and eggs in the gravel. Winter-run Chinook Salmon adults have completed spawning. Eggs and juveniles are in the gravel and early emergent juveniles are migrating downstream past RBDD. Fall-run Chinook Salmon adults are actively migrating into the river and tributaries are holding and spawning currently. Some eggs are in the gravel. Late Fall-run Chinook Salmon are migrating upstream from ocean. (Updated 10/20/2025)
Feather River	Oroville Storage: 1.871 MAF Current Release: 2,450 cfs Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 2,400 cfs to 2,495 cfs Daily temperature maximum: 51 +/- 4 degrees F at Fish Hatchery	Fall-run Chinook Salmon are currently holding and spawning. Spring-run Chinook Salmon are currently spawning. Green Sturgeon holding at the outlet and Shanghai Bend. (Updated 10/14/2025)

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
American River	Folsom Storage: 433 TAF Current Release: 1,000 cfs Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1,000 to 1,400 cfs	• Fall-run Chinook Salmon adults are moving upstream and beginning to spawn. • (Updated 10/6/2025)
Stanislaus River	New Melones Storage: 1.619 MAF Current Release: 700 cfs Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 700 cfs to 1,500 cfs (Fall Pulse Flow)	• Adult fall-run Chinook Salmon are entering the Stanislaus River and beginning spawning. • (Updated 10/6/2025)
Delta	Freeport: 12,000 cfs to 13,000 cfs Vernalis: 2,000 cfs to 2,700 cfs Delta Outflow index: 6,000 to 9,000 cfs Combined Exports: 4,900 to 6,200 cfs JPP: 950 cfs to 4,200 cfs CCF: 0 cfs to 4,000 cfs Expected Daily OMR Index Values: -3,600 to –5,500 cfs Rio Vista Flows: 5,900 cfs to 6,500 cfs DCC Gates: Open until further notice. X2 > 81 km Qwest daily: 1923 cfs Qwest 7-day: 6549 cfs Tides: Transition from Spring to Neap; New Moon on October 21.	• Winter-run Chinook salmon juveniles are beginning to migrate into the Delta. • Delta smelt observed in the confluence and Suisun Marsh on 10/6/25 and 10/9/25, and 10/17/25. • Juvenile Green Sturgeon observed in salvage between 08/14/25 – 09/30/25. • (Updated 10/21/2025)

Table 2a-b: WY 2025 relevant Fish and Environmental Criteria and Status in 2024 Reclamation LTO Action Cumulative loss for the duration of 2024 Biological Opinion began upon signature of ROD, 12/19/2024.

Table 2a: WY 2025 Salmonid Current Loss and Delta Smelt Abiotic Conditions. Additional Real-Time OMR Restrictions and Performance Objectives (4.10.5.10.2, 4.10.5.10.3) and Onset of OMR Management (4.10.5.10.1). Genetic identification of salmon is not used in calculating loss, but results are included in the Assessment as they become available.

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Green sturgeon	Annual = 14 3-year rolling average = 5	WY 2026 salvage = 0	Occasional salvage possible	10/20/25
Natural winter-run Chinook Salmon (JPE= TBD)	Incidental Take Limit= TBD Annual thresholds 50%= TBD 75%= TBD 100%= TBD	WY 2026 Loss= 0	Salvage is unlikely in the upcoming week.	10/20/25
Natural Steelhead	100% threshold = 3,000	WY 2026 loss = 0	Salvage is unlikely in the upcoming week.	10/20/25
Steelhead Weekly Loss Threshold	7-day rolling sum of steelhead salvage exceeds loss of 120 fish	7 day rolling sum as of 6/16/25 = 0	Salvage is unlikely in the upcoming week.	10/20/25
Sacramento River Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon (JPE= 135,342)	TBD	TBD	None released yet	10/20/25
Battle Creek Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	TBD	TBD	None released yet	10/20/25
Proposed Action Hatchery yearling spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates	TBD	TBD	None released yet	10/20/25
Delta Smelt	See Table 3b	See Table 3b	See Table 3b	10/20/25
Longfin Smelt	See Table 3c	See Table 3c	See Table 3c	10/20/25

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	Not 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	10/20/25	N/A
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	Unlikely to observe salvage of natural winter-run based on historical salvage.	10/20/25	N/A
Natural-origin Winter-run Early Season Weekly Loss Thresholds (8.2.1)	Nov. 1- Dec. 31	Not in Effect	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/20/25	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Natural-origin Winter-run Weekly Loss (8.4.4)	Jan 1 – June 30	Not 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)]	N/A	N/A	10/20/25	N/A
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: Not in effect	N/A	N/A	Yearling natural spring-run salvage possible in next week	10/14/25	No scheduled spring-run surrogate group releases

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	Not active	three-day Freeport (FPT) daily flow running avg>= 25,000 AND [three-day Freeport turbidity running avg >=50 NTU OR Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation]	N/A	N/A	10/14/25	N/A

Action	Timefr ame	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 tempera tures at Jersey Point (SJJ) or Rio Vista (RVB) exceed 12 °C (53.6 °F)	Not 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>1 2 FNU • Vernalis flow >10,000 cfs (temporary offramp); <8,000 cfs (reinstated)	N/A	N/A	10/14/25	N/A
Larval and Juvenile Delta smelt Protection (8.4.1)	After Adult Delta smelt Entrainm ent Protectio n 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	Not active	Cum. salvage > (Age 1+ LFS Index/20) +1 = 181 fish	N/A	N/A	10/14/25	N/A
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 = 736cfs 90-Day Avg Exports = 10,126cfs	YOY detections possible Flow/ Exports conditions unlikely to meet criterion	10/21/25	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 10/21/2025)	Status
SWP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
CVP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
Smelt Larval Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
LES	Delta	Not Active	4
20mm Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
Fall Mid-water Trawl	Delta	Active	1
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	Active	1
Tisdale RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
GCID RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
Mill Creek RST	Mill Creek	Not Active	4
Deer Creek RST	Deer Creek	Not Active	5
Yuba River (Hallwood) RST	Yuba River	Not Active	4
Butte Creek Carcass Surveys	Butte Creek	Active	1
Butte Creek RST	Butte Creek	Not Active	4
Yolo Bypass Rotary Screw Trap	Yolo Bypass	Not Active	4

Monitoring survey	Region	Notes (as of 10/21/2025)	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	Active	1
Feather River (upper DWR) RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
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
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.

Preference (i.e., a y-intercept of 0.5)