



Weekly Assessment of CVP and SWP Delta Operations

November 17, 2025

Delta Cross Channel is closed. Continued DCC gate closure is warranted due to exceedance of catch indices.

Executive Summary

- Delta Cross Channel gates were closed on October 30, 2025 in response to KLCI and SCI exceedances.
- D-1641 water quality criteria are currently being met at monitoring locations.
- Daily KLCI and SCI indices continue to exceed criteria on multiple occasions, most recently on November 17.
- Continued DCC gate closure will reduce routing of winter-run Chinook salmon into the Interior Delta where survival is lower and risk of entrainment in export facilities is higher.

Operational and Regulatory Conditions

For more information see Weekly Fish and Water Operation Outlook document for November 18 - November 24.

Biology, Distribution and Evaluation of Winter run Chinook salmon

Table 1. Average percent presence by November 2 with 95% confidence intervals of annual emigrating population of juvenile Winter-run Chinook salmon. From: [WY2026 Current Conditions for the Salmon Monitoring Team SaMT: SacPAS Sacramento Prediction and Assessment of Salmon and other fishes](https://www.fws.gov/sacramento/sacmt-sacpas-sacramento-prediction-and-assessment-of-salmon-and-other-fishes). Last updated 11/17/2025

| Species | Red Bluff Diversion Dam | Tisdale RST | Knights Landing RST | Sac Trawl (Sherwood) Catch Index | Chipp Island Trawl Catch Index | Salvage |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Chinook, LAD Winter- run, Unclipped | 85% (80%,91%) BY: 2014 - 2024 | 21% (5%,38%) BY: 2014 - 2024 | 23% (3%,42%) BY: 2014 - 2024 | 9% (-8%,26%) BY: 2014 - 2024 | 1% (-1%,3%) BY: 2014 - 2024 | 0% (0%,0%) WY: 2016 - 2025 |

Since early October, an estimated 2.3 million fry passed Red Bluff Diversion Dam as of November 11. Flow and temperature conditions support juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon migration. Mill and Deer creek flows exceeded 95 cfs with both showing sharp increases (>50%) on November 13. Wilkins Slough flow remains below 7,500 cfs with increased flows starting November 15. Upstream flows from recent precipitation are expected to increase Wilkins to greater than 15,000cfs early this week.

Consequently, both SCI (both the seines and trawls) and KLCI have exceeded criteria multiple times over the past week and as recently as November 17 (Figure 1). Survival, Travel Time, and Routing Simulation (STARS) predicts low overall survival (0.27), interior routing (0.13), and interior delta survival (0.09).

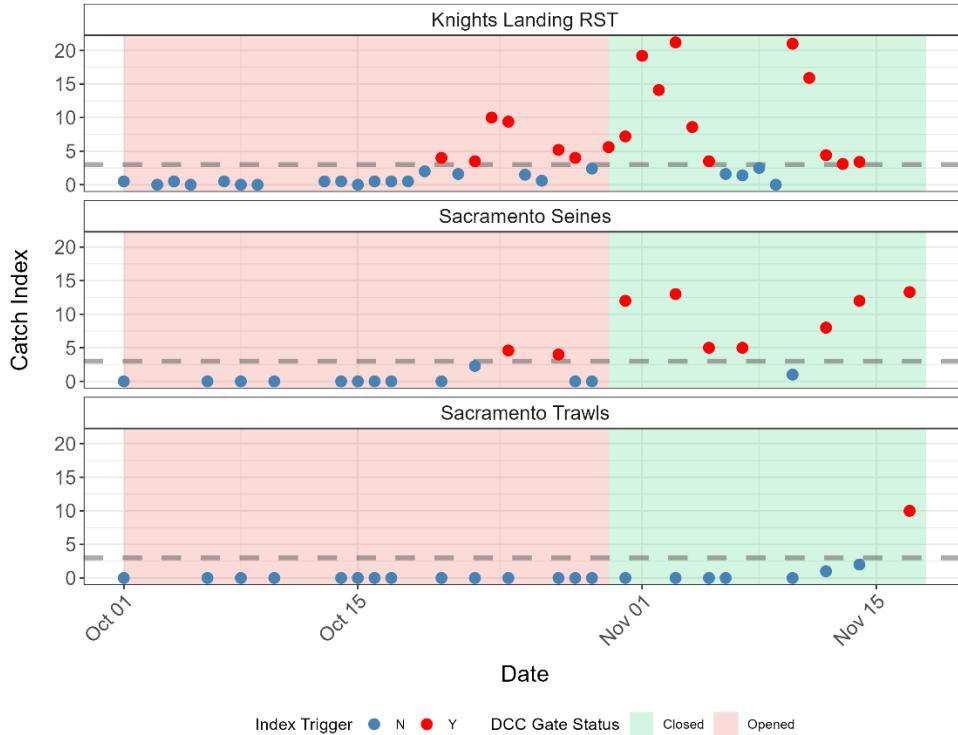


Figure 1. Summary of DCC gate operations and Knights Landing and Sacramento River Catch Index. Red shaded area indicates open DCC gates, green shaded area indicates closed DCC gates, blue dots represent catch indices below thresholds, red circles represent catch indices above thresholds, and grey dashed line represents catch index threshold.

Figure 1 shows three panels summarizing daily catch indices from Knights Landing RST, Sacramento Seines, and Sacramento Trawls from October 1 to mid-November, shown with Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gate status. Red shading indicates periods when DCC gates are open, and green shading indicates periods when gates are closed. The dashed line in each panel shows the catch index threshold used to inform operations. Individual daily catch values are shown as points, colored by whether they trigger (red) or do not trigger (blue) the threshold. In the Knights Landing RSP panel, catch indices remain at or near zero through early and mid-October. Catch values begin to rise in the last third of October, with multiple days exceeding the threshold once the gates transition to the opened period in early November. In the Sacramento Seines panel, indices also remain low throughout most of October; several days exceed the threshold beginning around late October and continue intermittently into November. In the Sacramento Trawls panel, indices remain low for most of the time period, with only one threshold-exceeding day occurring in mid-November. Overall, increases in catch activity at Knights Landing and in the Seine surveys align with the shift from the closed-gate period and the opened-gate period.

No loss of natural-origin winter-run Chinook Salmon has occurred in the past week at the State or Federal fish salvage facilities, and is unlikely to occur over the next week. However,

opening DCC gates may allow for increased routing of winter-run into the interior delta making fish more vulnerable to loss at the facilities.

See WY 2026 current conditions for the Salmon Monitoring Team: [WY2026 Current Conditions for the Salmon Monitoring Team SaMT: SacPAS Sacramento Prediction and Assessment of Salmon and other fishes](#) for additional historical and current monitoring data.

Monitoring Teams Summary

The assessment was shared with SaMT and discussed during the meeting. There were no issues raised to WOMT by SaMT.

Water Quality

Water quality criteria are currently being met at locations listed in Table 3 in Appendix 2 of the Biological Opinion (Figure 2) as well as dissolved chloride criteria at Rock Slough.

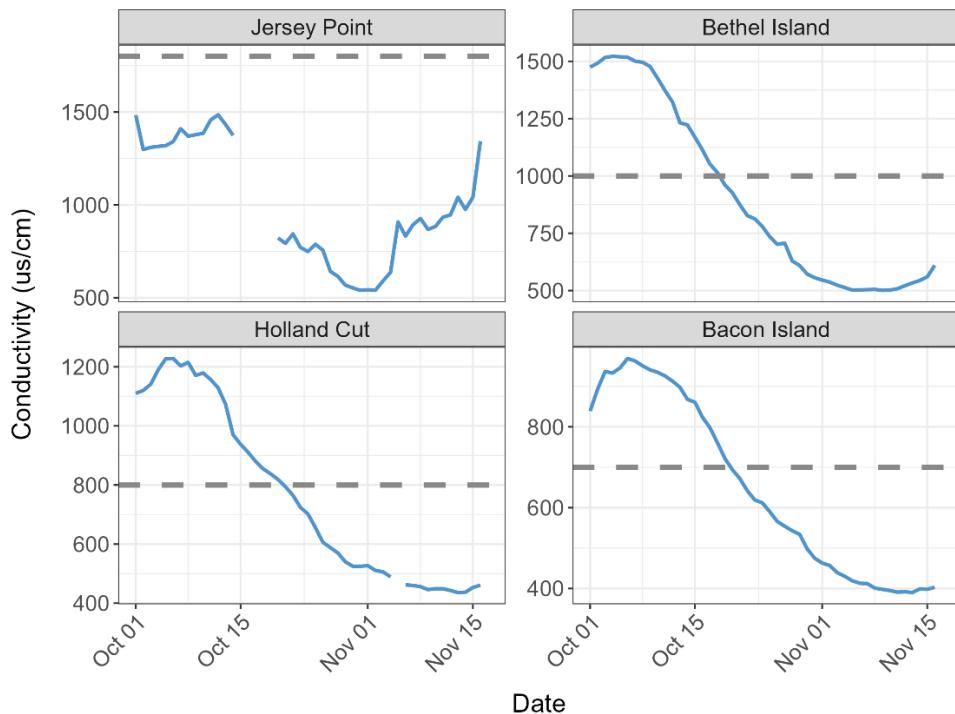


Figure 2. Conductivity (umhos/cm) at Jersey Point, Bethel Island, Holland Cut, and Bacon Island with associated standards thresholds (horizontal dashed line).

Figure 2 is a four-panel figure showing line charts of conductivity over time for four Delta locations: Jersey Point, Bethel Island, Holland Cut, and Bacon Island. Each panel includes a gray dashed horizontal line indicating the location-specific conductivity threshold. At Jersey Point, conductivity fluctuates between roughly 1,300-1,500 umhos/cm in early October before dropping sharply in mid-

October to a minimum near 550 umhos/cm around early November, followed by a gradual rise into mid-November. The threshold line sits near 1,700-1,800 umhos/cm. At Bethal Island, conductivity begins around 1,500 umhos/cm on October 1 and declines steadily throughout the period, falling below the 1,000 umhos/cm threshold roughly mid-month and reaching a minimum near 500 umhos/cm in early November, with a slight increase after. At Holland Cut, conductivity peaks near 1,200 umhos/cm in early-October, then steadily decreases through the month, dropping below the 800 umhos/cm threshold around mid-October and leveling off near 450-500 umhos/cm by mid-November. At Bacon Island, conductivity shows a similar downward pattern: Beginning near 900 umhos/cm, dropping below the 700 umhos/cm threshold by mid-October, and continuing to decline to roughly around 400 umhos/cm in early November before remaining at that level. Overall, all four locations show a decline in conductivity from early October into early November, with values at each station falling below their respective thresholds well before mid-November.

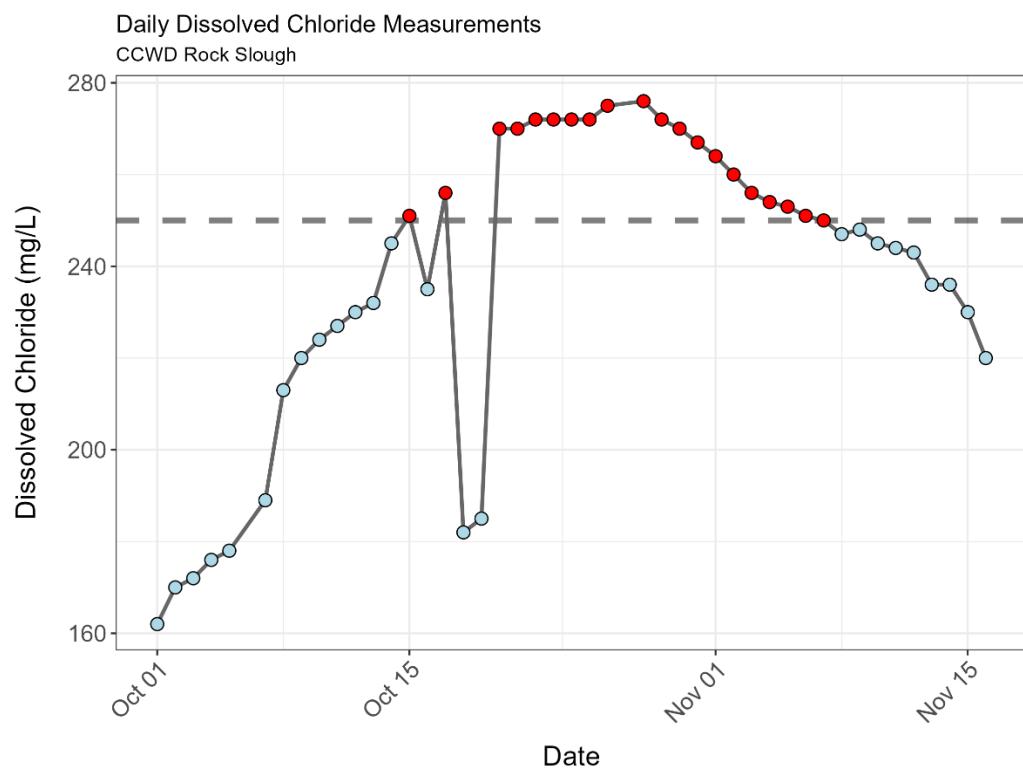


Figure 3. Dissolved Chloride (mg/L) measured at Rock Slough Pumping Plant intake. Red circles indicate exceedance of d-1641 Dissolved Chloride standard of 250 mg/L.

Figure 3 is a line chart titled "Daily Dissolved Chloride Measurements – CCWD Rock Slough." The y-axis shows dissolved chloride (mg/L), and the x-axis shows daily values from October 1 through mid-November. A gray dashed horizontal line marks the 250 mg/L D-1641 standard. Individual measurements are shown as points, colored red when chloride concentrations exceed the standard and blue when they remain below it. Chloride concentrations begin near 160-170 mg/L in early October and increase steadily through mid-October, reaching the threshold around October 15. After two brief dips below 200 mg/L on October 17-18, concentrations rise sharply and exceed the 250 mg/L standard from October 19 onward. Elevated values persist through late October and early

November, fluctuating between approximately 260 and 280 mg/L before gradually declining in mid-November.