



# **Weekly Assessment of CVP and SWP Delta Operations**

December 1, 2025

No salvage of salmonids has occurred in WY 2026.

## **Executive Summary**

- Salvage may occur in the next week due to increased presence of salmonids in the delta and OMR more negative than -5,000 cfs.
- Winter-run juvenile production past Red Bluff is large, thus the Early Migration winter-run threshold is expected to be large and its exceedance is unlikely.
- Delta Cross Channel gates were closed on October 30, 2025 and will remain closed for fishery protection unless opening is warranted per D-1641 criteria.

## **Operational and Regulatory Conditions**

For more information see Weekly Fish and Water Operation Outlook document for December 2 - 8.

## **Biology, Distribution and Evaluation of Winter run Chinook salmon**

Table 1. Average percent presence by October 19 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 12/01/2025

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	91% (87%,95%) BY: 2014 - 2024	27% (7%,47%) BY: 2014 - 2024	28% (6%,50%) BY: 2014 - 2024	17% (-6%,39%) BY: 2014 - 2024	1% (-1%,3%) BY: 2014 - 2024	0% (0%,0%) WY: 2016 - 2025

As of November 25, an estimated 2.6 million LAD winter-run fry have passed Red Bluff Diversion Dam (this estimate does not include spring-run size fish that may be true genetic winter-run based on timing). Catch at RBDD has been decreasing indicating that most winter-run have migrated downstream (Figure 1).

Flow and temperature conditions support juvenile Chinook salmon migration. Mill and Deer creek flows exceeded 95 cfs but has been steady over the past week. Wilkins Slough flow has continued to decrease to below 7500 cfs in the past week. Survival, Travel Time, and Routing Simulation (STARS) predicts low overall survival (0.28), interior routing (0.13), and interior delta survival (0.07). Delta entry catch continues to exceed catch indices, but at a decreasing level (Figure 2).

**Red Bluff Unmarked (not mark-corrected) Juvenile Passage Estimates**  
**BY2025 Winter Chinook**  
**2025-07-01 to 2025-11-25**

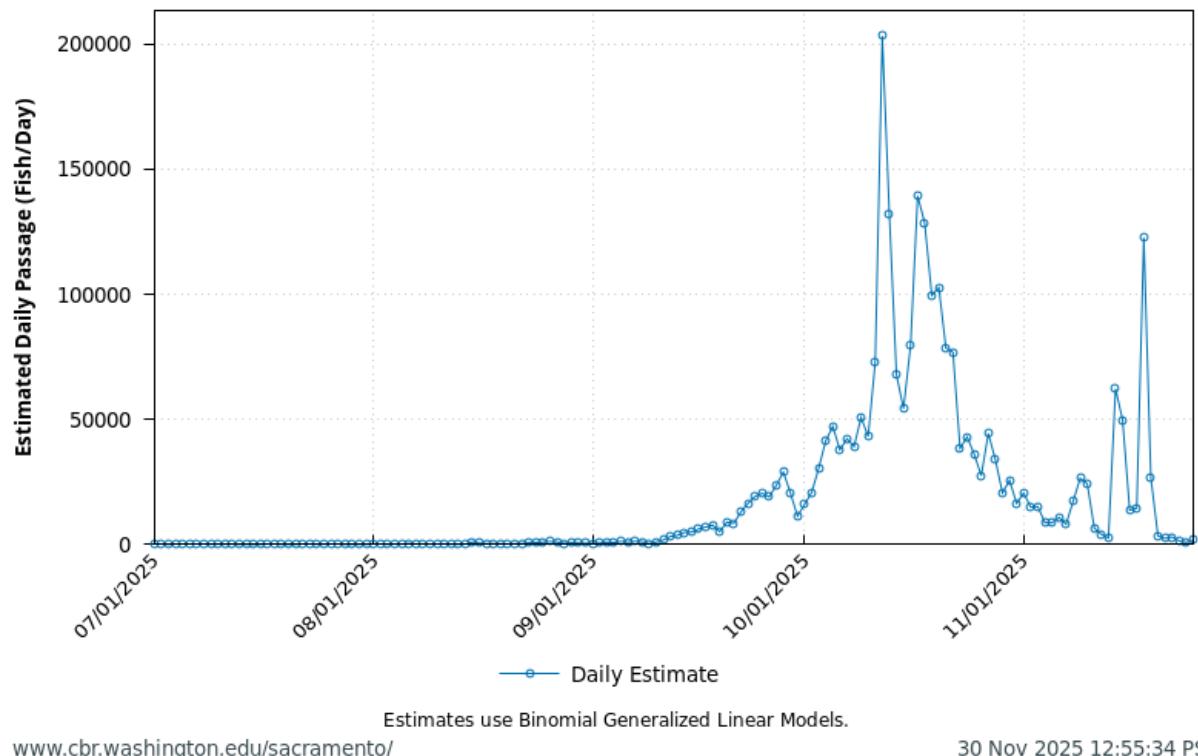


Figure 1. Length-at-date winter-run daily passage estimates at Red Bluff Diversion Dam as of November 25.

Figure 1 is a line graph showing Red Bluff unmarked (not mark-corrected) Juvenile Passage Estimates for BY2025 Winter Chinook. The y-axis shows estimated daily passage in fish per day. The x-axis shows dates from 7/1/2025 through 11/25/2025. Estimated daily passage remains at or near zero fish per day until mid-September, increasing to around 30,000 fish per day in late September before dipping to early October. In October, estimated daily passage steadily increases to 50,000 fish per day, then spikes to over 200,000 fish per day in early October. Estimated daily passage decreases sharply to around 50,000 fish per day in mid-October and increases again to around 130,000 fish per day before decreasing through the end of October to less than 50,000 fish per day. In early November, estimated daily fish passage continues to decrease to almost zero fish per day before two spikes in mid-November at around 600,000 fish per day, then 125,000 fish per day. In mid-to-late November, estimated daily passage decreases again and evens out close to zero fish per day.

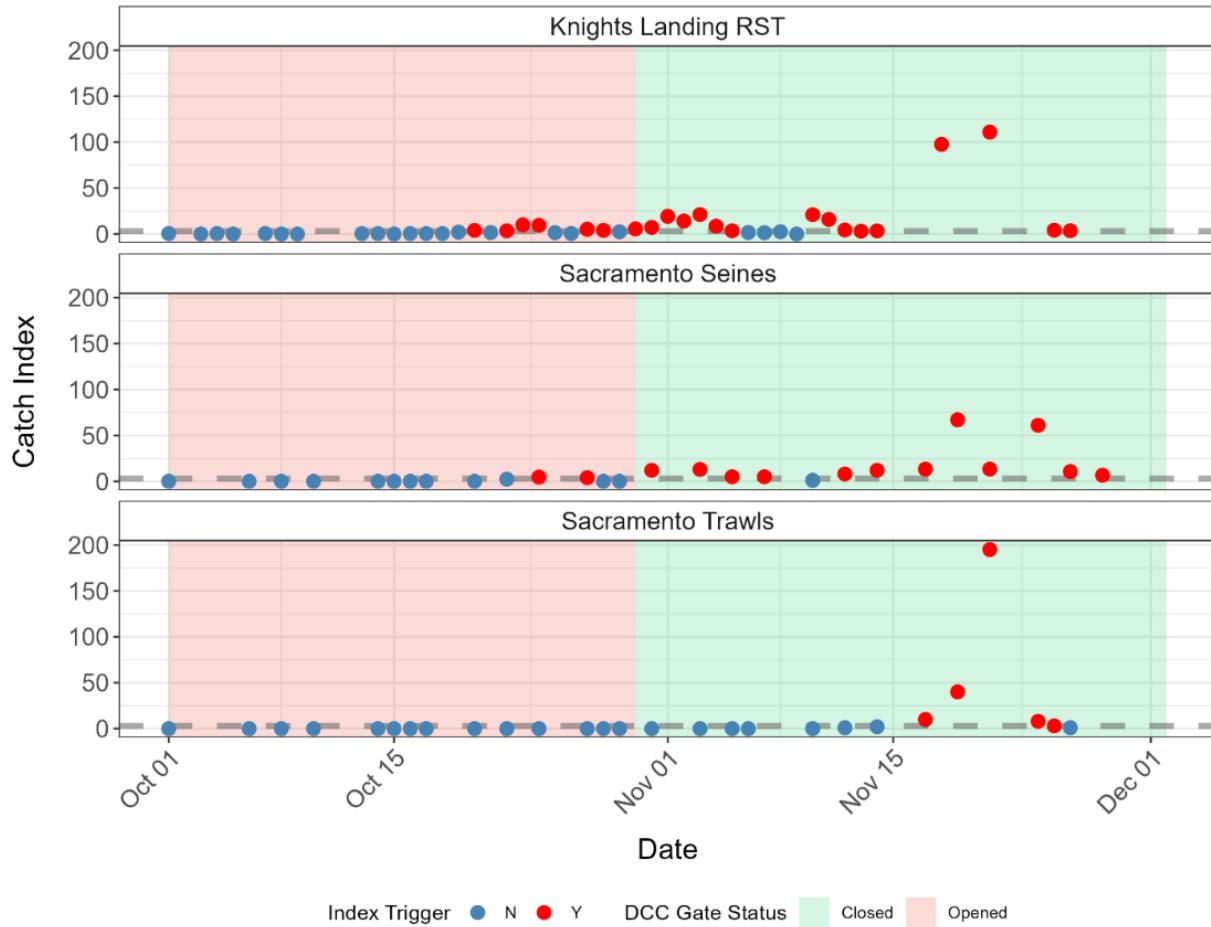


Figure 2. Summary of DCC gate operations and Knights Landing and Sacramento River Catch Index. Red shaded area indicates open DCC gates, green shaded area indicates closed DCC gates, blue dots represent catch indices below thresholds, red circles represent catch indices above thresholds, and grey dashed line represents catch index threshold.

Figure 2 shows three panels summarizing daily catch indices from Knights Landing RST, Sacramento Seines, and Sacramento Trawls from October 1 to December 1, 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. In the Knights Landing panel, catch indices remain near zero in early October, then rise beginning around October 20, with several days exceeding the threshold in late October and early November. In mid-November, catch indices increase to over 100, before decreasing back to near zero later in the month. Sacramento Seine indices remain near zero until late October, when a few values exceed the threshold. Catch indices continue exceeding the threshold through much of November, with spikes around 75 and 50. At the end of November, catch indices continue exceeding the threshold, but are almost zero. Sacramento Trawl indices stay near zero until mid-November when they spike up to around 200 before quickly returning to near-zero, and staying below the index trigger by late November.

No loss of natural-origin winter-run Chinook Salmon has occurred in the past week at the State or Federal fish salvage facilities. While STARS predicts low survival and low probability of routing into the interior delta, the increased presence of salmonids, particularly winter-run, in the delta and OMR values greater than -5,000 cfs indicate that salvage is possible over the next week.

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 data.

No loss of natural-origin winter-run Chinook Salmon (by LAD) has occurred in the past week at the State or Federal fish salvage facilities. Loss of natural-origin winter-run Chinook Salmon at the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) fish collection facilities is unlikely to occur over the next week. However, DCC gates may allow for increased routing of winter-run into the interior delta making fish more vulnerable to loss at the facilities.

### **Delta Cross Channel Gates**

The DCC gates are closed.

## **Monitoring Teams Summary**

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