



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Delta Action Team (DAT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 12/16/25 at 10:00 a.m.

Participants

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Contra Costa Water District
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Friant Water Authority
- Friends of the River
- Kearns & West (K&W)
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- San Francisco Baykeeper
- San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority
- State Water Contractors
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- Westlands Water District

Welcome & Housekeeping

- Mia Schiappi opened the discussion with an overview of the new Delta Action Team (DAT) and agenda.
 - The purpose of the DAT is a consolidation of SaMT, SMT, and DMW objectives

- Each meeting has an open discussion period for clarifying operational questions and sharing scientific findings.

Questions/Discussion on Announcements

- No questions asked.

Weekly Operations Update

Operational Intent

- DWR has been monitoring conditions affecting release management. Beginning next Friday, evolving conditions will determine the upper end of the release forecast. Today's information reflects a snapshot of Delta hydrology and may change.

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 4,000 cfs.
 - Feather River releases are currently at 1,750 cfs and will be maintained at this level until next week.
 - American River releases at Nimbus Dam are 1,000 cfs.
 - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently at 200 cfs
 - Freeport flows are currently at 10,200 cfs and will range between 9,500 cfs to 13,000 cfs.
 - Vernalis flows are currently at 1,100 cfs and will range between 1,100 cfs to 1,400 cfs.
 - Delta Outflow is at 8,100 cfs and will range for the following week between 6,500 cfs to 13,000 cfs.
 - JPP exports are at 900 cfs.
 - CCF exports are currently at 1,600 cfs and will range between 1,600 cfs to 2,600 cfs for this week.
 - Rio Vista flows are at 7,600 cfs and will range between 7,000 cfs to 13,000 cfs.
 - QWEST flow rate is at -743 cfs and seven-day average is -677 cfs.
 - San Luis storage is 1.281 MAF. SWP's share is 892 TAF and CVP's is 388 TAF.
 - Expected Daily OMR Index is -2,600 cfs; five-day average OMR index is -2,600 cfs; 14-day average OMR index is -3,000 cfs.

Questions/Discussions on Weekly Fish and Water Operations

- Reclamation confirmed the addition of JPF data in the weekly Water Operations Outlook.
 - JPF data was missing from the Water Operations Outlook, but it was identified on the Smelt Assessment, which was reviewed later in the DAT meeting.
- Friends of the River asked why JPP exports are lower than state exports.
 - Reclamation mentioned that it is repaying its COA debt and has therefore reduced pumping. Coordination of JPP exports is to address water quality issues.
- San Luis & Delta-Mendota Authority asked how the 6- and 10-day precipitation forecasts for Northern California would affect JPP export projections.
 - Reclamation responded that it is evaluating opportunities to increase exports and is projecting increases beginning in the Sunday to Monday timeframe. Increases would occur incrementally, unit by unit, while ensuring COA debt obligations are met. The key constraint to be closely monitored is the first flush event, projected for December 25 and 26, which would limit exports to a -2,000 cfs OMR index. They will continue to look for opportunities to take advantage of water in the system to maximize exports.
- Westlands Water District asked whether water quality constraints affecting operations are limited to specific locations and whether D-1641 water quality criteria are being met at other monitoring stations.
 - DWR responded that daily water quality, particularly chloride concentration, must remain below 250 milligrams per liter at the pumping locations, which generally corresponds to an electrical conductivity of about 1,000 microsiemens per centimeter. Electrical conductivity along four monitoring corridors is currently around 700 microsiemens per centimeter and trending upward. DWR noted that water quality is being closely monitored and is a primary factor influencing operations.
 - Reclamation commented that it is critical to look at all the stations because water quality can change quickly. If exports are increased and salinity is pulled in, it is very hard to push out and takes a lot of water. They are working to ensure that does not occur.
- Defenders of Wildlife asked whether there was a more specific location that could be shared for X2.
 - DWR shared that 81 km is just east of Collinsville.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Species Tables Updates

- Reclamation and DWR shared the updates that were made on Tables 2a and 3a – e.

Questions/Discussions on Operations Outlook Species Tables Updates

- State Water Contractors asked whether annual green sturgeon take thresholds would be updates?
 - Reclamation shared that conversation between Reclamation and NMFS are in continuing discussion about the take limit.

Proposed Action Assessments

Salmonid Proposed Action Assessment

- Reclamation provided an update.
 - Salvage has not yet been observed.
 - Entrainment management season has not yet occurred. Entrainment management season is scheduled to begin on January 1.
 - Survey captures to date include roughly 15 winter-run Chinook salmon.

Smelt Proposed Action Assessment

- Reclamation provided an update.
 - Delta smelt and longfin smelt salvages have not yet been observed.
 - Entrainment management season has not yet occurred.
 - The first flush is not expected this week but may occur next week.
 - The most recent abundance estimate for Delta smelt was slightly over 10,000 fish (as of last week).
 - A total of 138,743 cultured Delta smelt via supplementation have been released to date.
 - The most recent release occurred on December 2–3, with a final release of approximately 30,000 fish anticipated today.
 - Survey captures to date include 25 adult Delta Smelt, 16 juvenile Delta smelt, 74 adult longfin smelt, and 414 juvenile longfin smelt.

ITP Assessment

- No ITP assessments were shared.

Questions/Discussions on Assessment

- No questions asked.

Open Discussion

Steelhead Processes

- Reclamation gave a presentation on steelhead processes.
 - Action 5 sets an annual loss threshold of 1% of Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE) for steelhead.
 - Because natural-origin JPE is not yet feasible, a hatchery surrogate approach is used.
 - JPE is based on hatchery releases from Coleman, Nimbus, Feather, and Mokelumne, assuming standard practices.
 - Historic telemetry-based survival estimates are applied from hatchery release sites to Delta entry.
 - Survival rates are adjusted by Sacramento Valley Water Year Type (critical-wet), with poorer survival in dry years and higher survival in wet years.
 - JPE is calculated dynamically throughout the year by summing release-specific JPEs as hatchery releases occur.
 - Hatchery release data come from CDFW spreadsheets and distribution notices, with automation planned.
 - Future improvements include updated telemetry studies, genetic analyses, and reanalysis of older data.

Next DAT Meeting

- The next Delta Action Team Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 12/23/25.

Action Items

- N/A