BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook

12/30/2025 – 1/5/2026

Water Project Operational Intent for Week

CVP and SWP operations will be conducted so that the 14-day averaged OMRI will not be more negative than –5,000 cfs.

Biological Context

The DCC gates are expected to remain closed through April to protect migrating salmonids.

Forecasted Weather

Dry weather through mid-week with cold overnight lows and fog, low clouds in the Central Valley. Next weather system arrives New Year's Day with potential for showers and mountain snow, although confidence on specific details is low at the moment.

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: 275 cfs	• Spring-run Chinook Salmon juveniles are emerging, rearing, and out-migrating • Fall-run Chinook Salmon eggs are hatching and some juveniles emerging. • Adult O. mykiss/steelhead are entering the creek and migrating upstream. • Adult Late-fall run Chinook Salmon are entering and spawning • (Updated 12/22/2025)
Sacramento River	• Shasta Storage: 3.246 MAF • Current Release: 10,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 6,000 cfs to 10,000 cfs	• Spring-run Chinook Salmon Juveniles are emerging and migrating downstream • Winter and spring-run Chinook juveniles being caught in low and decreasing numbers. Fall-run Chinook juveniles beginning to outmigrate in slowly increasing numbers. • LAD juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon are migrating and being caught in decreasing numbers at RBDD. • All Winter-run Chinook have emerged and are migrating downstream past RBDD. • Fall-run Chinook Salmon adults have completed spawning activities. Eggs are in the gravel. • Late fall-run Chinook Salmon are migrating upstream from ocean, preparing to spawn, and some are actively spawning. • (Updated 12/9/2025)

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Feather River	• Oroville Storage: 2.317 MAF • Current Release: 1,750 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1,750 cfs • Daily temperature maximum: 55 +/- 4°F at Fish Hatchery	• Fall-run Chinook Salmon spawning is mostly complete, some limited activity still in the HFC. Eggs in gravel & incubating. • Spring-run Chinook Salmon adults have completed spawning and eggs are incubating in the gravel. Juveniles are beginning to emerge. • Adult O. mykiss are migrating upstream. • Green Sturgeon holding at the outlet and Sunset Pumps. • (Updated 12/16/2025)
American River	• Folsom Storage: 541 TAF • Current Release: 5,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 4,500 cfs to 5,000 cfs	• Fall-run Chinook Salmon adult spawning is past the peak and is slowing down for the season. • Eggs are incubating in the gravel. • (Updated 12/08/2025)
Stanislaus River	• New Melones Storage: 1.687 MAF • Current Release: 200 cfs • Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 200 cfs to 400 cfs	• Adult fall-run Chinook Salmon are spawning. • Eggs are incubating in the gravel. • Spring-run fry are emerging and moving downstream. • Fall-run fry are also likely moving downstream with the increases in flow. • (Updated 12/23/2025)

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Delta	• Freeport: 30,000 cfs to 75,000 cfs • Vernalis: 1,800 cfs to 2,800 cfs • Delta Outflow index: 35,000 to 101,000 cfs • Combined Exports: 4,300 to 5,500 cfs • JPP: 3,500 cfs • CCF: 800 cfs to 2,000 cfs • Expected Daily OMR Index Values: -3,500 cfs to – 5,000 cfs • Rio Vista Flows: 30,000 cfs to 88,000 cfs • DCC Gates: Closed • X2 > 81 km • Qwest daily: 16,256 cfs • Qwest 7-day: 9799 cfs • Expected Daily JPF: -350 cfs to 11,200 cfs • Tides: Transition from Neap to Spring; Full Moon on Jan. 3.	• LAD Spring-run and Winter-run Chinook salmon juveniles are migrating into the Delta. Winter-run are being seen by the monitoring programs. • A total of 25 adult and 21 juvenile Delta smelt have been observed in Suisun Marsh, the lower Sacramento River and the Sacramento DW Ship Channel. The most recent observation was of 2 adult Delta smelt in Suisun Marsh on 12/29. • 163,349 unmarked Delta smelt have been released in fall 2025. • The final release of 24,606 cultured Delta smelt occurred on 12/16. • A total of 132 sub-adult and adult Longfin Smelt have been observed in the Chipps Island Trawl for WY2026, with 78 being in the last two weeks. Three larval Longfin Smelt have also been detected, one in the confluence and two in the lower Sacramento River. • Unclipped fall-run and spring-run sized fish are being salvaged at Federal facility • Clipped late-fall run sized fish are being salvaged at Federal and State facilities. • (Updated 12/23/2025)

Table 2: WY 2026 Salmonid Current Loss and Delta and Longfin Smelt Abiotic Conditions.

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Green sturgeon	Annual = 14 3-year rolling average = 5	salvage = 6	Occasional salvage possible	12/23/25

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Winter-run Chinook Salmon juveniles (JPE= TBD)	Genetically confirmed unclipped = TBD LSNFH releases = TBD	Confirmed loss= 0 LSNFH loss = 0	Salvage is possible in the upcoming week. *LAD WR was salvaged but genetically identified as Latefall	12/29/25
Steelhead Juveniles (clipped)	Sacramento River origin = TBD San Joaquin River origin – TBD	Sacramento origin = 0 San Joaquin origin = 0	Salvage is possible in the upcoming week. *Salvage of unclipped steelhead has occurred at CVP	12/29/25
Spring-run Chinook salmon surrogate releases	Yearling: 1% of 75,119 = 751 60,873 = 609 Young of Year= TBD	Yearling loss = 0 Young of Year loss = 0	Salvage is possible in the upcoming week.	12/23/25
First Flush (onset of Entrainment Management Season)	Freeport flows ≥ 25,000 cfs AND Freeport turbidity ≥ 50 FNU	See Table 3b	Likely to occur this week	12/22/25
Delta smelt adults	JPF < 0 AND daily average turbidity ≥ 12 FNU in OMR corridor UNTIL Average water temperatures at Jersey Point or Rio Vista ≥ 12°C (53.6°F) for 3 consecutive days	Not relevant	Turbidity may increase through next week	12/22/25
Delta smelt larvae and juveniles	After onset of spawning, if JPF < 0 AND turbidity is ≥12 FNU in the south Delta	Not relevant	N/A	12/22/25

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Longfin smelt adults	If JPF < 0 and assessment indicates annual loss will exceed 5% of adult population abundance	Not relevant	No WY26 salvage to date	12/22/25
Longfin smelt larvae and juveniles	If JPF < 0 and population model indicates need to reduce entrainment to avoid population decline	Not relevant	No WY26 salvage to date	12/22/25

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	12/23/25	Possible for COA 8.3 (Onset of OMR Management) to be in effect this week due to hydrological conditions that may trigger COA 8.3.1 (First Flush)

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
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	Possible, but unlikely, to observe salvage of natural winter-run based on historical salvage.	12/23/25	N/A
Natural-origin Winter-run Early Season Weekly Loss Thresholds (8.2.1)	Nov. 1- Dec. 31	In Effect	Dec 1-Dec 31 = 231.64	No salvage of unclipped Older Juvenile observed at delta fish facilities for WY 2026	N/A	12/22/25	N/A
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	12/23/25	Winter-run JPE Sub-team has been meeting and discussing the JPE

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
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: In effect	Group 1: 0.25% of 75,119 = 187.80 Group 2: 0.25% of 60,873 = 152.18	N/A	Yearling natural spring-run salvage possible in next week	12/15/25	Group 1 of CNFH LF released on 11/17/25. CWT code: 05 68 10 Group 2 released on 12/22/25. CWT code: 05 68 13

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	Active, triggered on 12/23/25	three-day Freeport (FPT) daily flow running avg>= 25,000 AND [three-day Freeport turbidity running avg >=50 NTU OR Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation]	3-day FPT flow = 68,156 cfs 3-day FPT turbidity = 104 FNU	Flow and turbidity expected to decrease but remain elevated	12/29/25	N/A

Action	Timeframe	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 temperatures at Jersey Point (SJJ) or Rio Vista (RVB) exceed 12 °C (53.6 °F)	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>12 FNU Vernalis flow >10,000 cfs (temporary offramp); <8,000 cfs (reinstated)	Daily avg turbidity: OSJ: 18.41 FNU HOL: 2.68 FNU OBI: 2.49 FNU Vernalis Daily Avg Flow: 3,522 cfs	Turbidity not anticipated to increase over 12 FNU in Old River Vernalis flows decreasing	12/29/25	N/A
Larval and Juvenile Delta smelt Protection (8.4.1)	After Adult Delta smelt Entrainment Protection 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	Active, not triggered	-Cum. salvage > (Age 1+ LFS Index/20) +1 = 125	Cum. Salvage = 0	N/A	12/29/25	August – December Index = 2479.2
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 = 1,220cfs 90-Day Avg Exports = 8,510cfs	YOY detections possible Flow/ Exports conditions unlikely to meet criterion	11/25/25	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 12/23/2025)	Status
SWP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
CVP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
Smelt Larval Survey	Delta	Active	1
LES	Delta	Not Active	4
20mm Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
Fall Mid-water Trawl	Delta	Not Active	4
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	Not Active	4
Tisdale RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
GCID RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
Mill Creek RST	Mill Creek	Active	1
Deer Creek RST	Deer Creek	Active	1
Yuba River (Hallwood) RST	Yuba River	Active	1
Butte Creek Carcass Surveys	Butte Creek	Not Active	4
Butte Creek RST	Butte Creek	Active	1
Yolo Bypass Rotary Screw Trap	Yolo Bypass	Not Active	4

Monitoring survey	Region	Notes (as of 12/23/2025)	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	Not Active	4
Feather River (upper DWR) RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
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.