



Delta Monitoring Workgroup Weekly Meeting

Meeting Record 02/11/2025

Working Group Members in Attendance

- Reclamation: Erika Kegel, Chase Ehlo, Cat Pien
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Farida Islam
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Darcy Austin (SWC), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Tom Boardman (WWD), Jose Rangel (WWD), Alma Antuna (WWD), Bobby Phillips (WWD), Steve Micko (MWD), Yuan Liu (CCWD), Sarah Piramoon (Valley Water), Ian Buck-Macleod (FWA), Jennifer Buckman (ARSC), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA)
- Kearns & West: Brittani Bohlke, Marlys Jeane

Review Operations Outlook

- At Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River, releases are 60,000 cfs and will decrease to 40,000 cfs this Thursday (2/13) for storage management.
- At Whiskeytown Dam on Clear Creek, releases are at 300 cfs and will increase this week.
- At Nimbus Dam on the American River, releases are 2,500 cfs and will likely increase this week during the forecasted storm to about 5,000 cfs.
- At Goodwin Dam on the Stanislaus River, releases are 200 cfs.
- At Oroville Dam on the Feather River, releases were 30,000 cfs on Monday (2/10) for storage management and decreased to 25,000 cfs today (2/11) to accommodate inflows.
- Federal storage at San Luis Reservoir is 660,000 acre-feet; total storage is 1.59 million acre-feet.
- Freeport flows are approximately 80,000 cfs.
- Vernalis flows are approximately 1,300 cfs.

- JPP exports are currently at 4,200 cfs; but the range is 3,400 cfs to 4,200 cfs depending on any fisheries triggers.
- CCF exports are currently 1,800 cfs to maintain the OMRI target of no more negative than -5,000 cfs. The last day of the "storm flex" action was Sunday (2/9) due to daily average turbidity exceeding 12 FNU at Station OSJ on 2/7
- DCC Gates closed on 11/18 and will remain closed for the season.
- Tides are transitioning from Spring to Neap; the Full Moon is on Wednesday, 2/12.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Q: Why did the "storm flex" action end with only the OSJ sensor reading above 12 FNU? What about other stations like Holland Cut (HOL) or Bacon Island (OBI)?
 - A: According to both the Federal BiOps and the State ITP, the daily average turbidity at EACH of the individual OSJ, HOL, and OBI stations must be less than 12 FNU for "storm flex" to be permitted.
- Q: What is the biological rationale behind this turbidity condition?
 - No answer to this question.
- Q: It was noted there might be a potential decrease in JPP exports this week due to possible fisheries triggers. Is this referring to the larval LFS and/or winter-run triggers?
 - A: Based on catch data received today (2/11) from the most recent larval LFS survey, there were 6 larval LFS caught; this will not trigger any action. QWEST and Rio Vista flows are also very high right now, so this is another reason that action will not be triggered. The JPP exports range was included in case there's a large number of winter-run Chinook salmon catch, but that isn't anticipated right now.
- Q: In Table 3a in the Operations Outlook, why is the natural-origin winter-run salvage number 2.6?
 - A: The table shows the weekly loss number, which is a calculation. The salvage number is one natural-origin winter-run Chinook salmon, but the decimal comes from a formula which takes into account efficiency probabilities of being salvaged vs not salvaged, among other factors. The salvaged fish is the second confirmed genetic winter-run this year. There would need to be a significant influx of natural winter-run in the next few days to trigger the weekly distributed loss threshold, but there is a low probability of this.
- Q: How does the 2.6 weekly loss number correlate with the confirmed genetic winter-run annual loss number of 5.14 (Table 2a)?
 - A: The annual loss is a combination of the weekly loss numbers of genetically confirmed winter-run to date.

Review PA Assessment and Assessment Triggers (Reclamation)

Facilitator's note: Due to the new PA, DMW will only review the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook. A review of the PA Assessment may occur if a real-time trigger occurs.

Review Longfin Smelt Distribution and ITP Triggers (DWR)

Facilitator's note: Due to the new ITP, DMW will only review the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook. A review of the Risk Assessment may occur if a real-time trigger occurs.

Acronyms

- CVP – Central Valley Project
- DCC – Delta Cross Channel
- DOI – Delta Outflow Index
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- DCI – Delta Mendota Canal – California Aqueduct Intertie
- DS – Delta Smelt
- EDSM – Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring Program
- FNU – Formazin Nephelometric Unit
- I/E – Inflow to Export
- IOP – Interim Operations Plan
- ITP – Incidental Take Permit
- ITL – Incidental Take Limit
- JPE – Juvenile Production Estimate
- LFS – Longfin Smelt
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
- OBI – Old River Bacon Island Station
- OMR – Old and Middle River Tidally Averaged Flow
- PA – Proposed Action (Federal)
- PTM – Particle Tracking Model
- SaMT – Salmon Monitoring Team
- SLS – Smelt Larval Survey
- SMT – Smelt Monitoring Team

- SRDWSC – Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel
- SWP – State Water Project
- SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
- TFCF – Tracy Fish Collection Facility
- TUCP – Temporary Urgency Change Petition
- TUCO – Temporary Urgency Change Order
- USBR – United States Bureau of Reclamation
- WCS – Winter Run Chinook Salmon
- WOMT – Water Operations Management Team
- WQ – Water Quality
- YOY – Young of Year