



Delta Monitoring Workgroup Weekly Meeting

Meeting Record 03/25/2025

Working Group Members in Attendance

- Reclamation: Chase Ehlo, Thuy Washburn, Lillian McCormick, Grace Easterbrook, Alexander Vaisvil, Erika Kegel
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Brian Schreier, Farida Islam, Katherine Osborn
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Darcy Austin (SWC), Bobby Phillips (WWD), Tom Boardman (WWD), Alma Atuna (WWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Sarah Piramoon (Valley Water), Steve Micko (MWD), Jennifer Buckman (ARSC), Scott Peterson (SLDMWA), Ashley Overhouse (Defenders of Wildlife)
- Kearns & West: Marlys Jeane, Briana Moseley

Review Operations Outlook

- At Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River, releases are 13,000 cfs, with a range between 6,500 and 13,000 cfs.
- At Whiskeytown Dam on Clear Creek, releases are 300 cfs.
- At Nimbus Dam on the American River, releases are 1,350 cfs. Releases may increase for storage management in response to the upcoming precipitation in about a week to 10 days.
- At Goodwin Dam on the Stanislaus River, releases are 200 cfs.
- At JPP, exports are 3,500 cfs.
- DCC Gates are closed for the season.
- Tides are transitioning from Neap to Spring; the new moon is on March 29th.
- Federal storage at San Luis Reservoir is 743,000 acre-feet.

- At Oroville Dam on the Feather River, releases are 11,000 cfs.
- At CCF, exports are 2,200 cfs.
- Currently operating at no more negative than -3,500 cfs, which will most likely last through Thursday (3/27). Winter-run Chinook salmon salvage has exceeded the 100% targeted annual threshold. There will be a Director's call on Thursday (3/27) to discuss actions and next steps.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: Will this group get an update after the Director's meeting on Thursday?
 - Answer: Not sure. Once members of this group learn of a definitive decision, they will share it with the rest of DMW as appropriate.

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.

The March 24, 2025, Assessments for CVP and SWP Delta Operations on ESA and CESA-listed Species were reviewed. The following was shared.

Winter-run Chinook salmon updates:

- The annual loss thresholds for hatchery-origin Winter-run Chinook salmon (from the February Livingston Stone releases) have been exceeded. Calculations are based on a separate JPE calculated alongside the natural JPE. The assessment looks at historical data and suggests salvage has peaked, and along with seasonal observation, this indicates that loss of winter-run will continue to taper off now through the end of March. Any modification more positive than -5,000 cfs is unlikely to reduce that loss or have population-level effects on the loss of the winter-run salmon.

Delta Smelt updates:

- Moving forward, Reclamation will potentially produce assessments for relevant smelt triggers weekly.
- Larval and juvenile Delta Smelt entrainment protection is active but not triggered. No actions are triggered currently.

Review Longfin Smelt (LFS) 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.

- Data from stations 809 and 812 in the Lower San Joaquin River (from 20-mm Survey 1 last week) indicates 2 LFS larvae at station 809, which is well below the trigger threshold.

- QWest is more positive than +1,500 for the larval juvenile longfin measure, which is also below the trigger threshold.

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