



Delta Monitoring Workgroup Weekly Meeting

Meeting Record 04/01/2025

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
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Darcy Austin (SWC), Bobby Phillips (WWD), Jose Rangel (WWD), Alma Atuna (WWD), Brad Cavallo (WWD), Ron Milligan (WWD), Steve Micko (MWD), Yuan Liu (CCWD), Ian Buck-Macleod (FWA)
- Kearns & West: Marlys Jeane

Review Operations Outlook

- At Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River, releases are 8,500 cfs and increasing to reach 9,000 cfs by April 9th.
- At Whiskeytown Dam on Clear Creek, releases are 300 cfs.
- At Nimbus Dam on the American River, releases are 1,350 cfs.
- At Goodwin Dam on the Stanislaus River, releases are 400 cfs.
- At Oroville Dam on the Feather River, releases are 11,000 cfs.
- At JPP, exports are 3,500 cfs.
- At CCF, exports are 1,300 cfs.
- San Luis storage is 1.81 million acre-feet; Federal storage is 816,000 acre-feet.
- DCC Gates are closed for the season.
- Tides are transitioning from Spring to Neap; the First Quarter moon is on April 4th.

- Currently operating at OMRI no more negative than -3,500 cfs.
- Moving into April, SWP exports are subject to the Spring Delta Outflow Implementation, ITP provision 8.12.1 regarding I/E constraints. A 2 to 1 ratio for the combined SWP and CVP exports during April 1 – May 31 will apply in WY 2025, as it is designated “Dry” using the San Joaquin Valley hydrologic classification. SWP exports are not controlled by ITP COA 8.12.1 on days when the 3-day average Delta Outflow is greater than 44,500 cfs.
- ITP COA 8.12.2 is currently off ramped due to the 3-day average Delta Outflow being greater than 44,500 cfs. So OMRI is expected as the primary controlling factor this week, but there is uncertainty as to the OMRI requirements due to differing opinions about Winter-run Chinook salmon protections. WOMT discussions have been elevated to the Directors due to non-consensus on this issue; the Directors are meeting this week to discuss actions and next steps.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: Can you clarify the 8.12.1 condition: when the Delta outflow index is above 44,500 cfs, ITP section 8.12.1 does not need to be operated to?
 - Answer: As long as the Delta outflow is greater than 44,500 cfs on a 3-day average basis, SWP exports are not controlled by 8.12.1 between April 1 and May 31. When flows drop below 44,500 cfs on a 3-day average, then SWP exports are controlled by 8.12.1.
- Question: The San Joaquin water year classification uses a 75% exceedance for March. When the April forecast comes out, will this change?
 - Answer: No.
- Question: In the Delta, Jones Pumping Plant exports range between 2,700 cfs and 3,500 cfs. Will the range remain the same even if the Delta outflow drops below 44,500 cfs per ITP section 8.12.1?
 - Answer: That’s uncertain. Upper management will meet to discuss this further.

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. Moving forward, Reclamation will potentially produce assessments for relevant smelt triggers weekly. A review of the PA Assessment may occur if a real-time trigger occurs.

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.

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