



Delta Monitoring Workgroup Weekly Meeting

Meeting Record 05/27/2025

Working Group Members in Attendance

- Reclamation: Chase Ehlo, Thuy Washburn, Cat Pien
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Katie Osborne, Brian Schreier, Farida Islam
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Darcy Austin (SWC), Steve Micko (MWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Scott Peterson (SLDMWA), Ron Milligan (SLDMWA), Tom Boardman (CVP SOD Ag Districts), Brad Cavallo (WWD), Ian Buck-Macleod (Friant Water), Sarah Piramoon (Valley Water), Jennifer Buckman (ARSC)
- NGOs: Greg Reis (Friends of the River)
- Kearns & West: Mia Schiappi, Trisha Madayag

Review Operations Outlook

- At Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River, releases are 9,000 cfs.
- At Nimbus Dam on the American River, releases are 3,500 cfs.
- At Goodwin Dam on the Stanislaus River, releases are 2,200 cfs.
- At Oroville Dam on the Feather River, releases are 2,300 cfs.
- JPP exports are 3,200 cfs, with exports ranging between 3,200 cfs to 3,600 cfs.
- CCF exports are 600 cfs until the end of May per Section 8.12.1 of the ITP. Beginning June 1, SWP exports will be governed by applicable OMR limits.
- DCC Gates are closed today (5/27) and will potentially open this Saturday (5/31).
- Federal storage at San Luis Reservoir is 660,000 acre-feet; total storage is 1.35 million acre-feet.

- Tides are transitioning from Spring to Neap Tide; the Full moon is on 6/11.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: How many days at Chipps Island are expected to meet X2 standards in June?
 - Answer: Four or five days, though carryover days from May will apply. It will not impact operations.
- Question: On 6/1, when the state exits the I/E restriction and the OMR becomes the only constraint, will CVP operations at Jones PP be able to go to five units?
 - Answer: It is uncertain whether operations can shift to five units, as the system will be operating to an OMR of -5,000 cfs. With the 60/40 CVP/SWP split, current projections suggest a flow of approximately 3,500 cfs.
- Question: Is the earliest opportunity to operate a fifth unit likely tied to off ramping in June due to Clifton Court temperature constraints?
 - Answer: Yes, that is correct.
- Question: Where can the OMR Index be viewed in real time for compliance tracking? The daily email includes it, but a time series view would be helpful.
 - Answer: The OMR Index can be found in the State Water Project daily summary. The OMR Index was developed to closely reflect actual OMR conditions. Historical data can be found in the internal archives, but it is unclear if it is accessible to the public. If there is interest in accessing that data, please contact DWR staff to request access.
- Comment: There is some of the OMR Index data available on SacPAS. However, it may not be identical with what is historically in DWR's records, but SacPAS is able to calculate the index using the same method.
- Comment: I second the request for the OMRI data. I was also looking for that data and checked SacPAS, but I did not see it there. It is calculated from other values that are in SacPAS, so it seems like it would not be that difficult to add it if it is not there.
- Comment: A participant followed up after the meeting to share additional resources related to the OMR Index (OMRI) data sources discussed. Two SacPAS links were provided that may be helpful for those seeking more information or visual references on OMRI data:
 - [Link to OMR Index calculation method](#)
 - [Link to chart comparing the OMR Index and tidally filtered USGS-measured OMR](#)
- Comment: A request is made for broader access to historical OMRI data. The SacPAS link shared during the meeting appears to provide only the past two weeks of data. While the [SacPAS River Data Query Page](#) displays measured OMR flows, it does not appear to include OMRI. Given OMRI's role in Delta operations and fish triggers, it is suggested

that OMRI be added as a standard output for viewing and plotting, similar to river flows and temperatures.

- Comment: A table at the bottom of the [SacPAS Delta Juvenile Loss Page for Older Juvenile Non-clipped Chinook \(WY2025\)](#) displays OMRI and measured OMR values for the full water year.
- Comment: The [SacPAS River Data Query Tool](#) includes access to several OMRI versions under the “combined conditions” section of the River Data box. Selecting these queries may reset the location window, which can be ignored.

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 salmon and smelt triggers weekly. A review of the PA Assessment may occur if a real-time trigger occurs.

- Reclamation shared that there were four Steelhead captured in the past week, but that it would not get close to exceeding the annual threshold or the weekly distributed loss trigger. Loss rates are expected to remain steady or decrease through the end of the season, with no threshold exceedances anticipated. Additionally, a green sturgeon was salvaged last week, but overall losses are projected to stay below seasonal thresholds.

Additional Questions or Comments

- No questions or comments.

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.

- DWR shared that the last set of genetic analysis, from a few weeks ago, detected no spring-run salmon in salvage and noted an absence of spring-run surrogate release groups recently. Additionally, no spring-run salmon were observed from the last four release groups, indicating the salmon season is winding down.

Additional Questions or Comments

- No questions or comments.

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