

Weekly Assessment of CVP and SWP Delta Operations on ESA-listed Species

1. Executive Summary

a. Operations anticipated during the week

See Weekly Fish and Water Operation Outlook document for February 16 – February 21

b. Winter-run Chinook Salmon summary

No loss of natural winter-run Chinook salmon (LAD) has occurred in the past week at the State or Federal fish salvage facilities (Facilities) (Figure 1, Figure 2). Loss of natural winter-run Chinook salmon at the Facilities is likely to occur over the next week. 70-89% of juvenile natural winter-run Chinook salmon from brood year (BY) 2020 are estimated to be present in the Delta. An estimated 1-5% have exited the Delta. This percentage is likely to increase due to precipitation inflows, behavioral cues from other runs and maturation stage. Acoustic tagged hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon were detected entering the Delta.

c. Spring-run Chinook salmon summary

No loss of natural Central Valley (CV) YOY spring-run Chinook salmon has occurred in the past week at the Facilities. Loss of young of year Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon at the Facilities is unlikely to occur over the next week. 45-55% of spring-run Chinook salmon are estimated to be in the Delta. This percentage is likely to increase due to precipitation inflows, behavioral cues from other runs and maturation stage.

c. Central Valley Steelhead summary

No loss of natural California CV (CCV) steelhead occurred last week at the Facilities (Figure 3, Figure 4). Loss of CCV steelhead at the Facilities may occur over the next week. 30-45% of juvenile CCV Steelhead are estimated to be present in the Delta. An estimated 0-5% have exited the Delta. This percentage is likely to increase due to precipitation inflows and maturation stage.

d. Green Sturgeon summary

Loss of green sturgeon at the Facilities is unlikely to occur over the next week due to their rare presence in the South Delta. Anticipated inflows are likely to influence emigration of juveniles from the tributaries.

e. Delta Smelt summary

Based on distribution patterns over the past decade and recent detections, Delta Smelt are unlikely to be prevalent in the South Delta. Limited detection data support Delta Smelt being present in Suisun Marsh, west of the Sacramento-San Joaquin confluence, and in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel. The distribution of Delta Smelt is expected to extend upstream of the confluence which is supported by historical Spring Kodiak Trawl data analysis. The amount of precipitation this week and in-stream flow conditions may influence turbidity at OBI, but it is unlikely to reach 12 FNU in the next 7 days. The likelihood of Delta Smelt adult entrainment is slightly elevated relative to the previous seven days due seasonal timing. The more negative limits of the OMR Index increase the potential for entrainment of Delta Smelt in the Central Delta, which includes the lower San Joaquin River, into the South Delta.

f. Monitoring Teams summary

There were no non-consensus issues to report from the Salmon Monitoring Team.
There were no non-consensus issues to report from the Smelt Monitoring Team.

2. Operational and Regulatory Conditions

See current Weekly Fish and Water Operation Outlook document.

3. Biology, Distribution, and Evaluation

Winter-run Chinook salmon, Spring-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley Steelhead

POPULATION STATUS

Winter-run Chinook salmon

- **Delta Life Stages:**
 - Juveniles, Adults
- **Brood Year 2020 Productivity:**
 - Natural winter-run Chinook salmon: The finalized estimate from the winter-run JPE PWT for total natural production entering the Delta (JPE) is 330,130 winter-run Chinook salmon individuals. Estimated winter-run Chinook salmon passage at Red Bluff Diversion dam (RBDD) is greater than recent years (BY 2014 – 2018) with the exception of BY 2019. By 2/11/2021, 2,093,576 winter-run Chinook salmon were estimated to have passed RBDD compared to a cumulative passage of 3,799,460 winter-run Chinook salmon RBDD on 1/28/2020.
 - Last three weeks of observations at the Tisdale and Knights Landing RSTs (1/26 -2/15/2021) have shown a substantial jump in the numbers of natural winter-run captured by the traps following the increase in flows and turbidity resulting from recent storm events, but is tapering back down again as flows recede.
 - Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon: Approximately 302,166 juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon were released from Livingston Stone NFH at Caldwell Park on 1/30/2021. The final estimate for the hatchery JPE released into the Sacramento River from Livingston Stone NFH is 97,888 fish.
 - The JPE for BY 2020 hatchery origin winter-run Chinook salmon juveniles released from Livingston Stone NFH into Battle Creek is 37,232 fish.

Spring-run Chinook salmon

- **Delta Life Stages:**
 - Young-of-year (YOY) and Yearlings
- **Brood Year 2020 Productivity:**
 - Natural spring-run Chinook salmon: No JPE has been established for spring-run Chinook salmon. Approximately 24% of the juvenile spring-run sized Chinook salmon population for BY 20 is expected to have passed passing Red Bluff Diversion dam as of 2/14 (see Ops Outlook) based on historical data.
 - Hatchery spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates: First hatchery releases of yearling spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates from Coleman NFH facility occurred on 1/8/2021, second hatchery releases occurred on 1/22/2021, third hatchery releases occurred on 1/29/2021.

- First hatchery releases of yearling spring-run Chinook salmon from the SCARF facility occurred on 12/3/2020, a second hatchery releases of BY 2020 fish occurred on 1/26/2021.
- The agencies in the SaMT discussed the thiamine vitamin deficiency that was observed in winter-run Chinook salmon broodstock at the Livingston Stone NFH in BY 2020. Last year the thiamine deficiency appeared to negatively affect survival of juvenile fish as they migrate downstream towards the Delta. The thiamine deficiency issue is also likely impacting spring-run Chinook salmon. The Feather River Fish Hatchery experienced issues with infertile males. It is expected that the Feather River Hatchery will only meet about half of their production goals. On the Feather River, a larger than historical number of spring-run adults that entered the system and were tagged appear to be spawning in-river instead of returning to the hatchery. This is one reason that low returns were being observed at the hatcheries in 2020.

Central Valley Steelhead

- **Delta Life Stages:**
 - Spawning Adults, Kelts, Juveniles
- **Brood Year 2020 Productivity:**
 - Spawner abundance: There is limited information about the adult steelhead population. It is estimated to be small, contributing to the limited productivity of the population.
 - Natural steelhead: No JPE has been established for steelhead. Data are limited.
 - Hatchery steelhead:
 - Approximately 415,000 steelhead from Coleman NFH were released at Red Bluff in the first half of December, part of the CCV Steelhead DPS.
 - Approximately 216,500 steelhead from Coleman NFH were released into the Sacramento River from 12/28/2020-12/29/2020, which are part of the CCV Steelhead DPS.
 - Approximately 220,500 steelhead from Feather River Hatchery were released between 2/8/2021 - 2/12/2021 into the Feather River at Boyd's Pump.
 - Approximately 440,500 hatchery steelhead were released between 2/10/2021 - 2/21/2021 from the Nimbus Fish Hatchery into the American River at Sunrise.
 - Starting on 2/16 through 2/17/2021, approximately 170,000 BY20 hatchery steelhead will be released from the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery into the Mokelumne River at New Hope Landing.

DISTRIBUTION

Winter-run Chinook Salmon

- **Current Distribution:**
 - On 2/16/2021, SaMT estimated 70-89% of juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon were present in the Delta and 1-5% were estimated to have exited the Delta (Table 1). In October through December 2020, the GCID RSTs observed 967 winter-run Chinook salmon juveniles (by length at date criteria) in their daily catches. In January (through 1/25/2021), the GCID RSTs observed 36 GCID RST and 2 natural winter-run Chinook salmon juveniles (2/7/2021 – 2/15/2021). Winter-run Chinook salmon have been observed in RST monitoring locations farther downstream (43 at Tisdale 1/26/2021 – 2/14/2021 12 at Knights Landing 1/26/2021 - 2/15/2021). 83 marked winter-run Chinook salmon were observed at Tisdale for the same

- period. 10 marked winter-run Chinook salmon were observed at Knights Landing for the same period. Over 50% of current water year's observations have occurred in last two weeks at Tisdale and Knights Landing RSTs.
- Hatchery winter-run sized fish are being detected in downstream monitoring locations (Tisdale and Knights Landing) acoustic tagged hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon have been detected as far downstream as the Georgiana Slough.
 - One natural winter-run Chinook salmon was detected by the Sacramento trawl. One natural winter-run Chinook salmon was detected by the Chipps Island trawl.
- **Historic Trends**
 - Based on historical trends in salvage, 32% of winter-run Chinook salmon should have been observed in salvage by this time of the water year (Table 2). If historic trends in salvage were to continue winter-run Chinook salmon loss is expected to remain the same over the next week (Figure 1, Figure 2).
 - **Forecasted Distribution within Central Valley and Delta regions**
 - Movement of winter-run Chinook salmon juveniles into the lower reaches of the Sacramento River and upper Delta are likely to increase with precipitation events and increasing river flows and turbidity. Precipitation is anticipated to occur this week (see Ops Outlook) and given the seasonal timing (late-January / early-February) any precipitation during a very dry period may stimulate fish movement. Furthermore, based on the time of year, and the maturation of juvenile fish, downstream migration is expected to continue even without any substantial precipitation events occurring. The STARS model projects route-specific proportion of entrainment, survival, and travel times (Table 3). This model does not estimate entrainment into the lower Sacramento River sloughs (i.e. Three-Mile Slough). The DCC gates were closed 12/1/20 and are expected to remain closed through mid-May 2021.
 - The entrainment tool estimates a median loss of 0 fish and a maximum loss of 7 fish during this week (SacPAS last updated on 2/12/21).

Spring-run Chinook salmon

- **Current Distribution**
 - On 2/16/2021 SaMT estimated 45-55% of juvenile CV spring-run Chinook salmon were present in the Delta (Table 1). Flows at Mill Creek and Deer Creek have been indicative that yearling spring-run Chinook salmon began moving out of tributaries into the mainstem Sacramento River, yearling spring-run Chinook salmon have also been detected in the Butte Creek monitoring locations.
 - 9 unmarked spring-run Chinook salmon were observed at the Knights Landing RST and 4 at Tisdale RST in the past week. One spring-run Chinook salmon was detected by the Sacramento trawl. No spring-run Chinook salmon were detected by the Chipps Island trawl.
 - The first, second, and third spring-run surrogate Chinook salmon groups were released into the Sacramento River at Battle Creek on 1/8/2021, 1/22/2021, and 1/29/2021, respectively. One fish from release group number 2 (1/22/2021) was observed on 2/10/2021, total loss equal to 3.52 fish.
 - A PIT tagged fish from the yearling SCARF release on 12/3/2020 was observed in salvage at the Tracy Facilities on 2/6/2021. A hatchery Chinook salmon from the 1/26/2021 SCARF release was observed at the Tracy Facilities on 2/5/2021.
- **Historical Trends**

- Based on historical trends in salvage, 0% of YOY spring-run Chinook salmon should have been observed in salvage by this time of the water year (Table 2). If historic trends in salvage were to continue YOY spring-run Chinook salmon loss is expected to remain the same over the next week.
- **Forecasted Distribution within Central Valley and Delta regions**
 - Movement of juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon into the lower reaches of the Sacramento River and upper Delta are likely to occur with increased river flows and turbidity due to recent precipitation events (see Weekly Fish and Water Operation Outlook document).
 - Movement of juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon from the San Joaquin River basin into the southern Delta is likely to occur with increased precipitation and river flows.

Central Valley Steelhead

- **Current Distribution**
 - On 2/16/2021 SaMT estimated 30-45% of juvenile CCV steelhead were present in the Delta (Table 1).
 - 6 hatchery steelhead have been salvaged at the Tracy Facility in the past week.
- **Historical Trends**
 - Based on historical trends in salvage, 17% of juvenile CCV steelhead should have been observed in salvage by this time of the water year. If historic trends in salvage were to continue, juvenile CCV steelhead loss is expected to increase over the next week.
- **Forecasted Distribution within Central Valley and Delta regions**
 - One natural juvenile Central Valley steelhead has been observed near the DCC gates in monitoring this week and historical monitoring data detects an average of 16% of the annual population of natural juvenile steelhead in the Delta at this time. 1 hatchery steelhead was observed at Knights Landing this past week and 1 at Tisdale (2/6/2021 – 2/11/2021). One natural steelhead was detected by the Sacramento trawl. Zero natural steelhead were detected by the Chipps Island trawl. SaMT estimated that 30-45% of the population of CCV steelhead may be present in the Delta at this time and 0-5% have exited the Delta past Chipps Island. Closure of the DCC gates would reduce exposure and possible entrainment of juvenile CCV steelhead into the interior Delta via the DCC gates. The first natural steelhead in salvage for WY 2021 occurred 1/11/2021 at the CVP (Figure 3, Figure 4). The first marked steelhead in salvage for WY 2021 occurred 1/20/2021 at the CVP.
 - Recent precipitation in the Central Valley may stimulate fish movement due to increased inflows.
 - The entrainment tool predicts a median loss of 0 fish will occur with a maximum loss of 3 fish (SacPAS last updated on 2/12/21).

TABLE 1. Distribution estimates

Location	Yet to Enter Delta	In the Delta	Exited the Delta (Past Chipps Island)
Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon	10-25%	70-89%	1-5%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	45-55%	45-55%	0%
YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	90-95%	5-10%	0%
Natural origin steelhead	55-65%	30-45%	0-5%

TABLE 2. Historic migration and salvage patterns.

Date (2/11)	Red Bluff Diversion Dam	Tisdale RST	Knights Landing RST	Sac Trawl (Sherwood) Catch Index	Chipps Island Trawl Catch Index	Salvage
Chinook, Winter-run, Unclipped	98.5% (97.7%,99.4%) BY: 2011 - 2019	84.9% (61.3%,108.5%) BY: 2011 - 2019	86.0% (63.6%,108.3%) BY: 2011 - 2019	45.9% (16.6%,75.3%) BY: 2011 - 2019	6.7% (-0.7%,14.2%) BY: 2011 - 2019	32.1% (9.8%,54.5%)
Chinook, Spring-run, Unclipped	23.6% (7.5%,39.7%) BY: 2011 - 2019	36.7% (3.3%,70.2%) BY: 2011 - 2019	26.1% (-3.2%,55.5%) BY: 2011 - 2019	6.8% (-4.5%,18.1%) BY: 2011 - 2019	0.0% (0.0%,0.0%) BY: 2011 - 2019	0.3% (-0.3%,0.9%)
Steelhead, Unclipped (Dec – March)						17.4% (-0.7%,35.6%)

TABLE 3. STARS model output [NO UPDATE – DATA NOT AVAILABLE]

Date ()	DCC	Georgiana Slough	Sacramento River	Sutter and Steamboat
Proportion of Entrainment	NA			
Survival	NA			
Travel Time	NA			

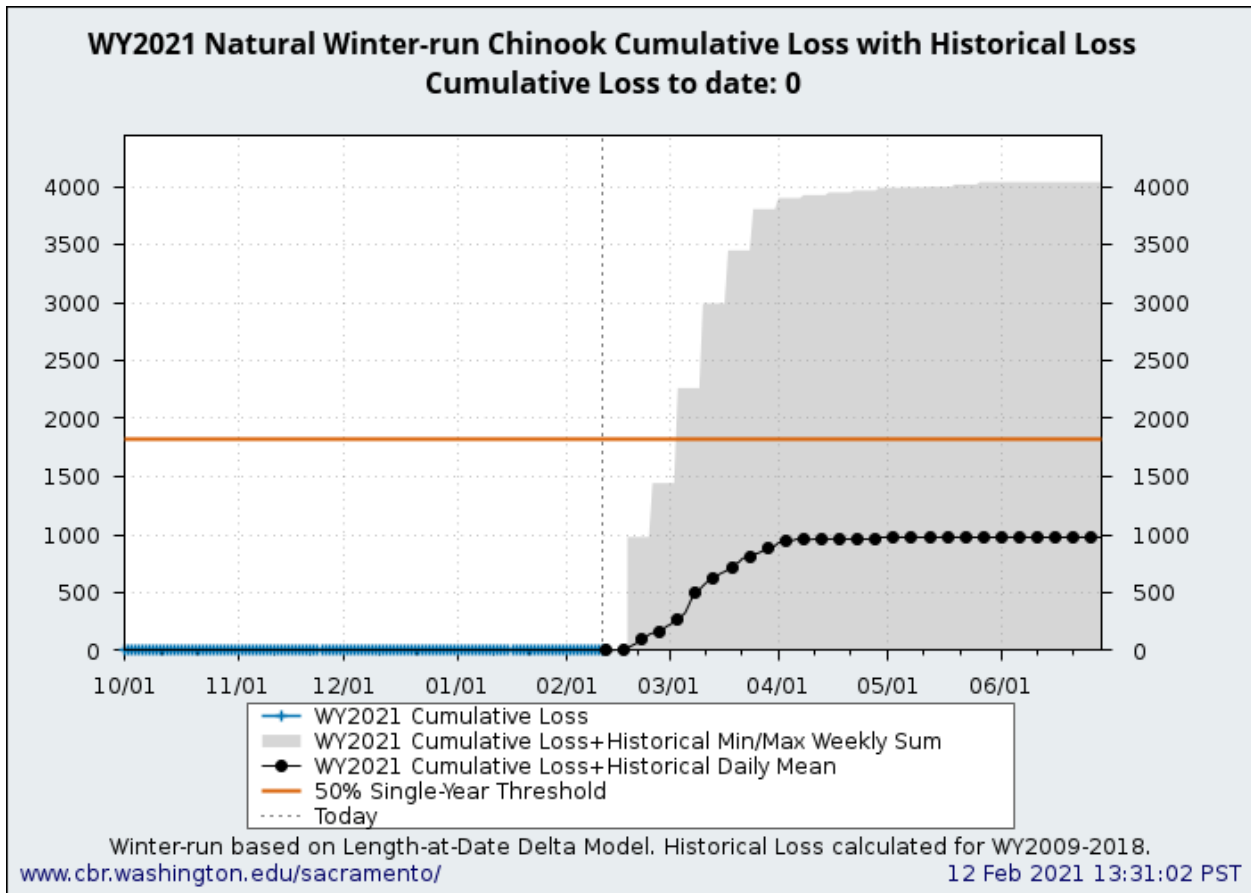


FIGURE 1. WY2021 natural winter-run Chinook salmon cumulative loss values through salvage season. Values depicted are not genetically corrected. No loss has occurred in WY2021. Based on historical cumulative loss values from 2009 – 2018, WY2021 observed loss (and potential future loss) are not likely to exceed the 50% loss threshold this week.

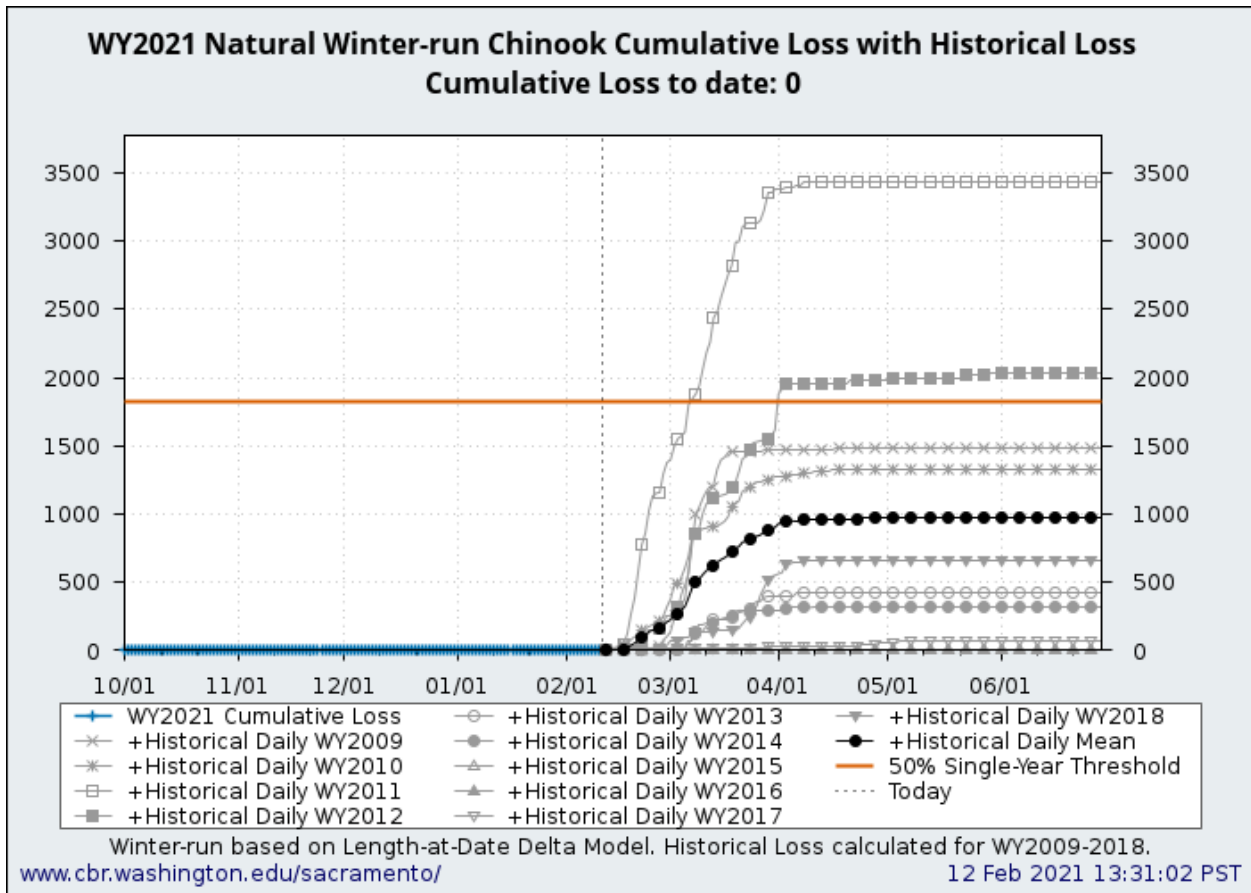


FIGURE 2. Daily natural winter-run Chinook salmon loss accumulates towards single-year loss threshold. Based on historical cumulative loss values from 2009 – 2018, WY2021 observed loss (and potential future loss) are not likely to exceed the 50% loss threshold this week.

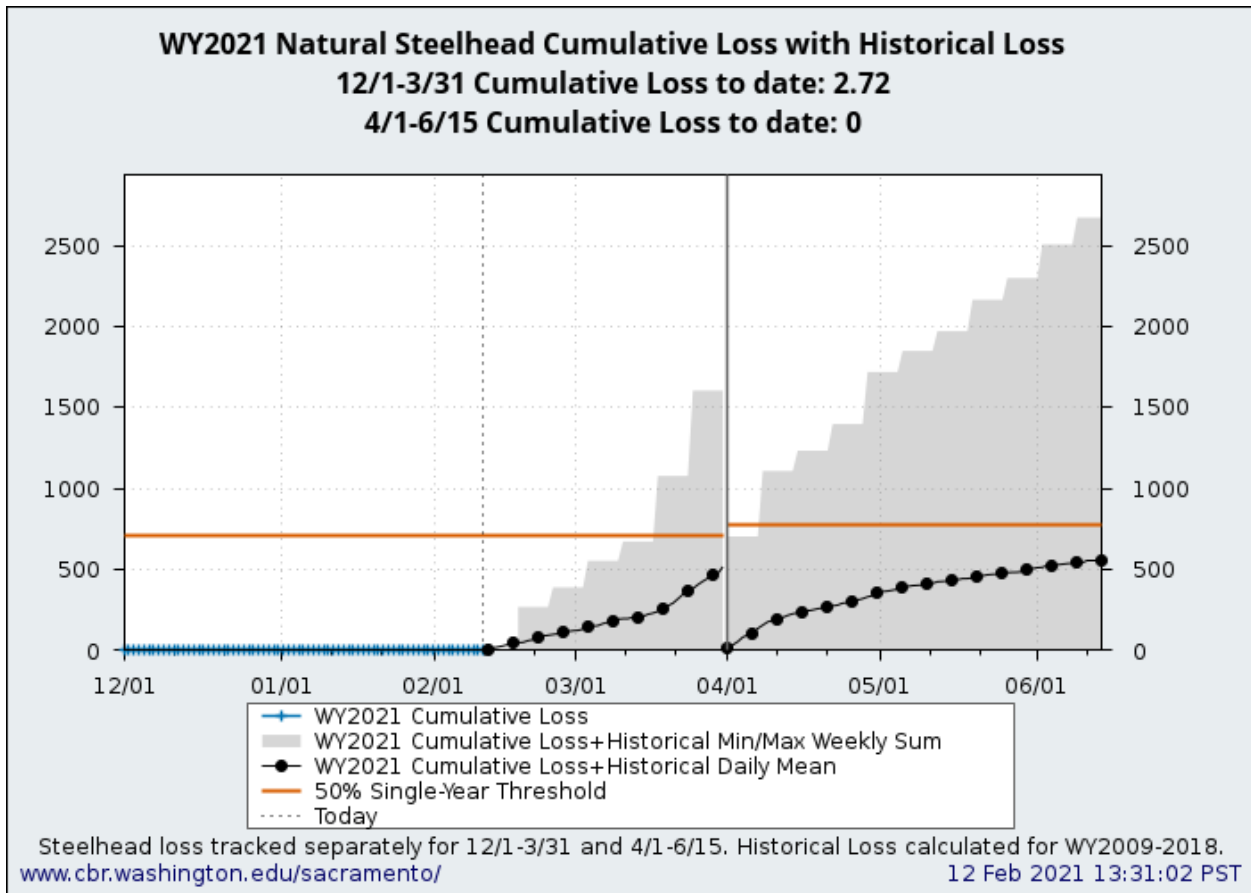


FIGURE 3. WY2021 natural steelhead cumulative loss values through salvage season: December 1 – March 31, April 1 – June 15. Based on historical cumulative loss values from 2009 – 2018, WY2021 observed loss (and potential future loss) are not likely to exceed the 50% loss threshold this week. The first steelhead loss occurred 1/18/2021.

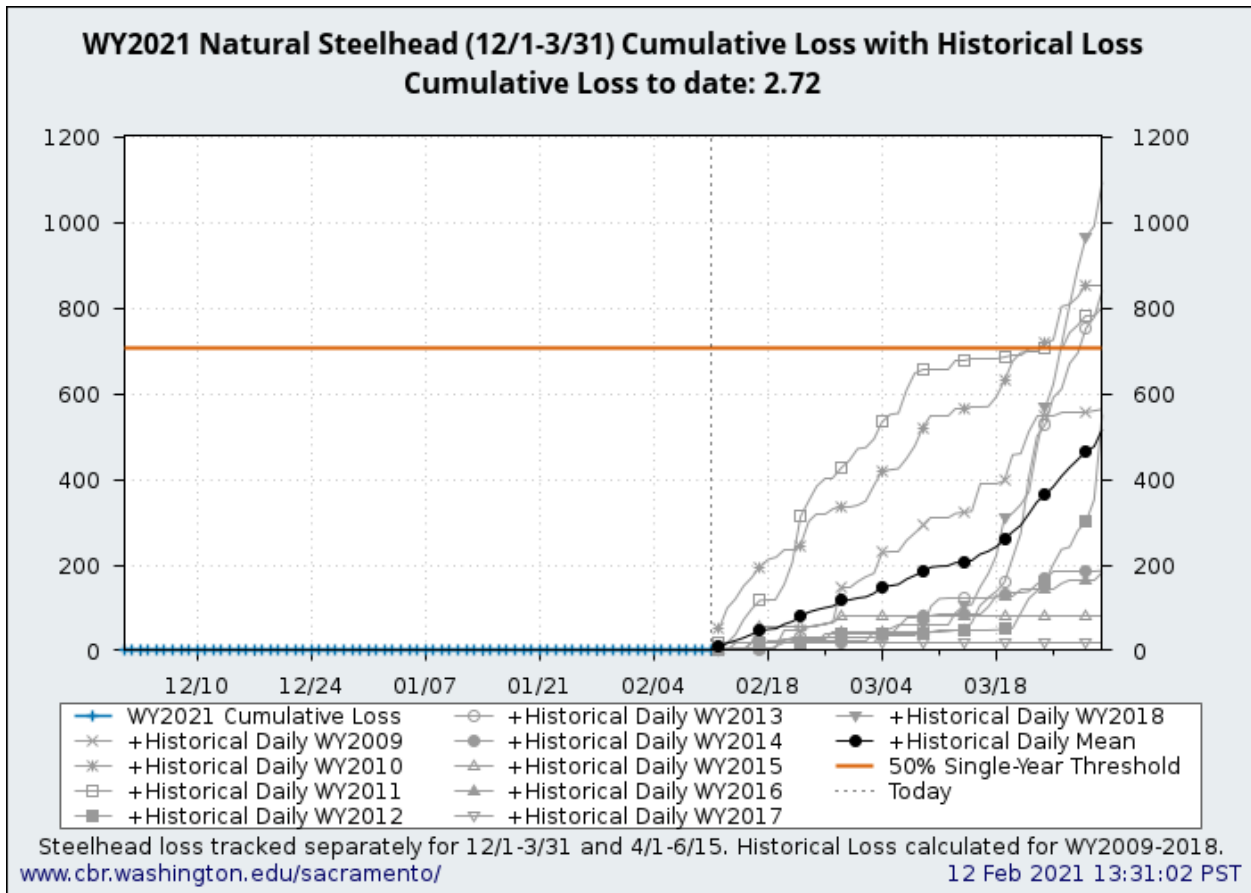


FIGURE 4. Daily natural steelhead loss accumulates towards single-year loss threshold: December 1 – March 31. Based on historical cumulative loss values from 2009 – 2018, WY2021 observed loss (and potential future loss) are not likely to exceed the 50% loss threshold this week.

EVALUATION

1. After January 1, are more than 5% of juveniles from one or more salmonid species present in the Delta?

Yes. Greater than 5% of juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon, spring-run Chinook salmon, and steelhead are present in the Delta.

2. Does the operational outlook's ranges impact fish movement and change the potential distribution of fish?

i. Potential effects within the 7 days (near-term) in the operations outlook.

It appears that there is an increase in salmonids being exposed to export facilities and OMR flow is expected to remain at or below -5,000 cfs this upcoming week. The SaMT anticipates an increased number of salmonids entering the Delta currently due to recent hatchery releases of steelhead, surrogate hatchery yearling spring-run, and hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon over the past 3 weeks and the forecast for precipitation occurring this week.

ii. Potential effects longer than the 7 days (longer-term) in the operations outlook.

The members of SaMT are not confident in projecting beyond 7 days due to uncertainty regarding weather forecasting. Precipitation is forecasted for this week. Furthermore, if current trends were to continue then it is anticipated that more fish may appear at export facilities as fish begin to outmigrate based on historical trends.

3. What is the likelihood of increased loss exceeding the next annual loss threshold (50%, 75% or 90% of threshold) resulting in OMR management actions based on population distribution, abundance, and behavior of fish in the Delta?

Winter-run Chinook salmon

Total juvenile natural and hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon (LAD) loss is 0 fish (as of 2/14/2021). The agencies in the SaMT assessed the likelihood of exceeding the next annual loss threshold and believe that loss occurring in the next week is unlikely to lead to exceedance of the 50% single-year loss threshold.

Spring-run Chinook salmon

Loss for yearling spring-run surrogate is low (refer to Ops Outlook Table 2). The agencies in the SaMT assessed the likelihood of exceeding annual loss threshold and believe that loss occurring in the next week is unlikely to lead to exceeding the hatchery spring-run surrogate threshold.

Central Valley Steelhead

Total juvenile natural steelhead loss is 2.72 fish (as of 2/14/2021) for the December 1 through March 31 period. The agencies in the SaMT assessed the likelihood of exceeding the next annual loss threshold and believe that loss occurring in the next week is unlikely to lead to exceedance of the 50% single-year loss threshold. Reclamation's Proposed Action has no hatchery steelhead triggers, but hatchery steelhead loss is likely to increase.

4. If an annual loss threshold has been exceeded, do continued OMR restrictions benefit fish movement and survival based on real-time information?

Winter-run Chinook salmon

The annual loss threshold for natural or hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon has not been exceeded in WY 2021.

Spring-run Chinook salmon

No threshold for hatchery spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates has been exceeded in WY 2021.

Central Valley Steelhead

The annual loss threshold for steelhead (December 1 – March 31) has not been exceeded in WY 2021.

5. **If OMR is more negative than -5,000 cfs are there changes in spawning, rearing, foraging, sheltering, or migration behavior beyond those anticipated to occur under OMR management at -5,000 cfs?**

OMR index levels in the upcoming week are not anticipated to be more negative than -5,000 cfs.

Green Sturgeon

POPULATION STATUS

- **Delta Life Stages:**
 - Adults and Juveniles
- **Juvenile Abundance:**
 - No empirical estimates of the juvenile population (ages 0 – 3) in the Delta are available. In 2020, 157 larval green sturgeon and six juvenile green sturgeon were observed at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam fish monitoring RSTs in the upper Sacramento River (this represents approximately 10% of the population distribution because sampling wasn't conducted from March – June due to Covid).

DISTRIBUTION

- **Current Distribution**
 - Information about their rearing and distribution patterns within the Delta is limited.
 - Juvenile and adult green sturgeon present in the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers and Delta during the next week. Acoustically tagged green sturgeon have been detected and remain in the vicinity of Sherman Island.
 - One dead green sturgeon was collected on the Skinner Delta Fish Protective Facility trash rack (1/22/2021).
- **Historical Trends**
 - Juvenile and adult green sturgeon are historically present in the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers and Delta.
- **Forecasted Distribution within Central Valley and Delta regions**
 - Juvenile and adult green sturgeon are present in the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers and Delta during the next week.

EVALUATION

1. **Is there likely to be salvage that may exceed the annual loss limit?**

Currently, green sturgeon salvage is 0 fish (as of 2/14/2021). The agencies in the SaMT assessed the likelihood of salvage occurring in the next week is unlikely to occur.

Delta Smelt

POPULATION STATUS

- **Delta Smelt Life Stages:**
 - Adult
- **Brood Year 2020:**
 - **Abundance estimate:** The most recent population abundance estimate for Delta Smelt was 1,746 . This estimate was calculated from the sampling between 1/25/2021-1/29/2021. The most recent detection of a Delta Smelt was a 47 mm juvenile collected in the Sacramento Deep

Water Ship Channel by EDSM on 1/26/2021. The most recent collection of a Delta Smelt for FCCL broodstock was on 1/21/2021. In order to reduce handling stress broodstock collections do not take additional data such as length or expression and are treated as adults in this assessment.

- **Biological Conditions:** The Smelt Monitoring Team discussed the most recent monitoring data (Table 4) and considered professional opinion on the historical trends in regional distribution. Based on those discussions, the agency participants on SMT estimate Delta Smelt subadult/adults should be holding in the Suisun Marsh and west of the Sacramento-San Joaquin confluence in anticipation of migration but analysis of historic Spring Kodiak Trawl (SKT) supports Delta Smelt distribution being above the confluence and less tightly correlated to X2 position (available upon request from USFWS). They are also present in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel.

DISTRIBUTION

- **Current Distribution**

- Real time detection data is currently limited to EDSM sampling, SKT, and SLS. Due to the low number of detections of Delta Smelt, the SMT is also monitoring FCCL Broodstock Collections to inform distribution estimates. Since there are only a few recent detections, the Smelt Monitoring Team's capacity to estimate where Delta Smelt are within the Delta is limited.
- The last Delta Smelt detection was on 1/26/2021 in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel by EDSM.
- Larval sampling was requested and is anticipated to start at the Skinner Fish Facility (SFF) on 2/22/2021 and the Tracy Fish Collection Facility (TFCF) on 2/15/2021.

TABLE 4. Summary of recently reported detections of Delta Smelt by Region and Salvage Facilities between 2/9/2021 and 2/16/2021. Start and End dates reflect period of time between updates to SMT. Regional categories are determined from EDSM sampling. Delta Smelt >58mm FL are considered adults.

Life Stage	North	South	West	Far West	Salvage
Adult	0	0	0	0	0
Larvae/Juvenile	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 5. Summary of recent Delta Smelt detections reported since last assessment and the total detections for the current water year. Notes reflect latest information on reported detections or completion of survey for the water year and include both larval and adult detections.

Sampling Method	New Detections	WY2021	Notes
EDSM	0	3	Phase 1 begins 11/30/20 Last Detection: 1/26/2021
SKT	0	0	SKT 2 Started: Complete SKT 3: 3/1 -3/4
SLS	0	0	Survey 3: processing Survey 4 Started: 2/22-2/24
20-mm	0	0	Begins: March
Bay Study	0	0	Started: 2/4-16/2021
FMWT	0	0	Ended 12/15/2020
Chippis Island Trawl	0	0	5 day per week sampling began 12/7/2020

Sampling Method	New Detections	WY2021	Notes
			Ends: mid-May.
Brood Stock Collections	0	2	Last Catch: 1/21/2021 EDSM no longer assisting

- **Historical Trends**
 - Based on historical analysis of SKT, the centroid of Delta Smelt distribution is anticipated to be above the Sacramento-San Joaquin confluence, but less closely correlated to X2 which is currently estimated to be at 80 km (Polansky et al 2018).
 - Recent Delta Smelt detections in the Deep Water ship channel are upstream of the confluence, but may be freshwater residents and not representative of the migratory life history patterns in Delta Smelt (Hobbs 2019).
 - The three station temperature reached above 12 degrees Celsius. This temperature is conducive to spawning.

- **Forecasted Distribution within Central Valley and Delta regions**
 - Delta Smelt distribution may change in response to recent and upcoming precipitation. However, predicting the distribution is currently difficult because detection data is limited to a few individuals and historic patterns may not be representative of the low population levels of Delta Smelt. None of the recent detections have been in the central or south delta. The SMT is using turbidity as a surrogate for Delta Smelt presence in making assessments.

ABIOTIC CONDITIONS

- **Turbidity**
 - Changes in Freeport flows and turbidity (Table 6) that would create “First Flush” conditions did not occur in WY 2021.
 - As of 2/16/2021 turbidity continues to be less than 12 FNU at all central and south Delta stations (see Attachment A).

TABLE 6. Relevant Environmental Factors to the current management actions for Delta Smelt.

Date Reported	OBI Daily Average Turbidity (FNU)
2/16/2021	3.47

- **X2 Conditions**
 - X2 is estimated to be at 80 km.
- **Other Environmental Conditions**
 - The Smelt Monitoring Team expects environmental conditions to change based on the volume of precipitation and the associated increases of in-river flow on turbidity.
 - The Fish and Water Operation Outlook OMR Index values are expected to range between -3,000 to -5,000 from 2/16/2021 to 2/22/2021.
 - Real time tracking of environmental conditions, relevant thresholds and Delta Smelt catch data are updated daily at: http://www.cbr.washington.edu/sacramento/workgroups/delta_smelt.html

EVALUATION

1. Between December 1 and January 31, has any first flush condition been exceeded?

The running 3-day average flows and running 3-day average turbidity at Freeport did not exceed the triggers for “First Flush” conditions in WY2021.

2. Do DSM have a high risk of migration and dispersal into areas at high risk of future entrainment? (December 1- January 31)

Delta Smelt were not detected in the South Delta between 12/1/2021 and 1/31/2021. The detection on 11/9/2020 supported Delta Smelt being present in Suisun Marsh and west of the Sacramento-San Joaquin confluence. Additional detections on the 6th, 15th, 21st and 26th of January support a presence of the species in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel, but these fish may represent the freshwater resident population and may not be representative of the migratory life history pattern.

3. Has a spent female been collected?

As of 2/16/2021 no spent female Delta Smelt have been observed.

4. If OMR of -2000 does not reduce OBI turbidity below 12NTU/FNU, what OMR target is deemed protective between -2000 and -5000?

OBI turbidity is currently below 12 FNU. The expected OMR range is -3,000 to -5,000 and no turbidity bridge avoidance action has been taken.

5. If OBI is 12 NTU/FNU, what do other station locations show?

OBI turbidity is currently below 12 FNU. The daily average turbidities on 2/16/2021 at Prisoners Point (no data available), Holland Cut (6.12 FNU) and Victoria Canal (2.99 NTU) have returned to the expected range of values.

6. If OBI is 12 NTU/FNU, is a turbidity bridge avoidance action warranted? What is the supporting information?

The turbidity at OBI is below 12 FNU and no turbidity bridge avoidance action is warranted as of 2/12/2021. A turbidity bridge avoidance action is not expected to be warranted in the next 7 days.

7. After March 15 and if QWEST is negative, are Larval or juvenile DSM within the entrainment zone of the CVP and SWP pumps based on surveys?

This question is not applicable until March 15th.

8. Based on real-time spatial distribution of Delta Smelt and currently available turbidity information, what is the OMR level between -3,500 and -5,000 cfs that manages weekly entrainment in the context of annual larval and juvenile entrainment levels?

This question is not applicable until March 15th.

9. What do hydrodynamic models, informed by EDSM or other relevant data, suggest the estimated percentage of larval and juvenile DSM that could be entrained may be?

This question is not applicable until March 15th.

DELTA SMELT REFERENCES

Hobbs, J. A., Lewis, L. S., Willmes, M., Denney, C., & Bush, E. (2019). Complex life histories discovered in a critically endangered fish. *Scientific Reports*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-52273-8>

Polansky, L., Newman, K.B., Nobriga, M.L. et al. Spatiotemporal Models of an Estuarine Fish Species to Identify Patterns and Factors Impacting Their Distribution and Abundance. *Estuaries and Coasts* 41, 572–581 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-017-0277-3>

Attachment A: Delta Turbidity Report

Department of Water Resources
Division of Operations and Maintenance
SWP Water Operations Office

Delta Turbidity Conditions Report

For conditions through: February 10, 2021

General Conditions:

Inflows:

Freeport	10651 CFS
Yolo Bypass	19 CFS
Vernalis	1322 CFS
Cosumnes	108 CFS
Mokelumne	192 CFS
Calaveras	26 CFS

Exports:

Clifton Court	1994 CFS
Jones	1882 CFS

Other:

OMR (Index)	-3022 CFS
QWEST	-507 CFS
NDOI	7735 CFS

Delta Daily Turbidity Trend Through 02/10/2021

