



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Stanislaus Watershed Team

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Stanislaus Watershed Team Notes: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/stanislaus-watershed-team.html>

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Notes

1. Actions
 - a. All
 - i. Provide feedback on the list running list of presentations.
 - b. Zarela Guerrero
 - i. Forward question from Shiloh Foust regarding operations and temperature to PeggyManza and Barbara Byrne, respectively. (DONE)
 - ii. Forward the CDFW table of fish monitoring to K&W to add to the notes. (DONE)
 - c. K&W
 - i. Follow up with Erin Foresman on functional flows presentation. (DONE)
 - ii. Add J.D. Wikert's presentation to the list running list of presentations. (DONE)
2. Introductions
 - a. USBR: Zarela Guerrero, Suzanne Manugian, Peggy Manza, Luke Davis, Elissa Buttermore & Spencer Marshall
 - b. NMFS: Barbara Byrne

- c. USFWS: J.D. Wikert
 - d. CDFW: Kenneth Kundargi
 - e. SWRCB: Yongxuan Gao
 - f. DWR: Vinh Giang
 - g. WAPA: Michael Prowatzke
 - h. OID: Steve Knell
 - i. Kearns & West: Rafael Silberblatt & Kai Walcott
3. Ground Rules
- a. The facilitator referred to the ground rules, located in the footnotes of the agenda, and received no objection from participants.
4. Announcements
- a. There were no announcements.
5. Operations Update and Forecasts/Hydrology
- a. New Melones:
 - i. Storage on April 19th was 1.5 MAF but is now at 1.49 MAF. It is anticipated that storage will begin to decrease.
 - ii. Inflows are steady at 800 cfs.
 - iii. New Melones is being operated to support Tulloch and Goodwin Reservoirs.
 - b. Goodwin Reservoir:
 - i. At the beginning of the month, releases were raised 400 cfs to meet salinity standards at Vernalis. Pulse flow operations started April 10th which will continue through May 6th when releases return to base flow.
 - ii. Daily CVP Water Supply Report
 - 1. Currently in the Critical year type and all reservoirs are in bad shape.
 - 2. The Weather Service has indicated that the Bulletin 120 for May will likely be much lower than that of April. They observed that at many sites snow is melting into the ground instead of running off into the reservoirs.

3. See handout for more details.

c. Questions/Comments

i. Is the low runoff from snowmelt being observed only in the Stanislaus River watershed or is it being noticed statewide?

ii. It's statewide.

d. **[Action]** Zarela Guerrero will forward Peggy Manza the question from Shiloh Faust regarding operations.

6. Temperature Updates

a. Temperatures are warming in all locations. There were some slightly anomalously warm days in early April.

b. See handout for details.

c. Questions/Comments

i. Shiloh Foust, Sunshine Rafting Adventure, sent an email asking how long temperatures at Vernalis will be below 68 °F.

d. There is no temperature requirement at Vernalis and Vernalis will get over 68 °F. See the meeting handout for the explanation of the 68 °F threshold reference line.

e. **[Action]** Zarela Guerrero will forward the email regarding temperature from Shiloh Foust to Barbara Byrne.

7. Flow Planning

a. No updates are expected until the Fall Pulse Flow.

b. The Water District's proposal to augment the spring pulse flow, which was briefly discussed in March's meeting, was not approved by Reclamation. This was not an SWT decision.

c. The action items regarding the Spring pulse flow period shifting notification email should be discussed during May's meeting.

8. Stanislaus River Forum (SRF) Call Review

a. Stanislaus River Forum was held via Teams on April 20, 2021. Barbara Byrne (NMFS), Shiloh Foust (public), Zarela Guerrero (USBR), Peggy Manza (USBR), Spencer Marshall (USBR), Chrissy Sonke (FISHBIO), Cory Starr (PSMFC), Steve Tsao (CDFW), J.D. Wikert (USFWS) and Jeanne Zolezzi (SEWD) were in attendance. Updates on operations, temperature and fish

monitoring were provided. A member of the public was in attendance representing Sunshine Rafting Adventures. He submitted questions regarding Operations and river temperatures which were forwarded to Peggy Manza and Barb Byrne for follow-up.

9. Fish Monitoring and Studies

- a. See handout for details.
- b. CDFW steelhead redd survey: No steelhead redds have been observed from weeks 1 through 4.
- c. **[Action]** Zarela Guerrero will forward the CDFW table of fish monitoring to Kearns & West to add to the notes.

10. Restoration Project Updates

- a. There were no updates.

11. Progress Update on Proposed Action Elements

- a. A template for the progress update on proposed action elements was drafted and is awaiting review.
- b. **[Action]** Kearns & West will follow up with Levi Johnson regarding the template for the progress update on proposed action elements.

12. Other Discussion Items

- a. Items to Elevate to WOMT
 - i. No items to elevate to WOMT.
- b. Ramping Rates Proposal
 - i. J.D. Wikert will provide a proposal on ramping rates in late summer (August/September) 2021. The deadline to finalize ramping rates is January 2022.
 - ii. **[Action]** Kearns & West will add an agenda item regarding the ramping rate proposal to the August's SWT meeting.
- c. Future Presentations
 - i. Erin Foresman identified a presenter for the Functional Flows presentation.
 - ii. **[Action]** Kearns & West will follow up with Erin Foresman regarding the Functional Flows presentation.

- iii. J.D. Wikert has prepared a presentation for the Salmonid Restoration Federation on Friday and offered to make the same presentation during an SWT meeting.
 - iv. **[Action]** Kearns & West will add J.D. Wikert's presentation to the running list of presentations.
 - v. **[Action]** SWT members should review the list of presentations and provide feedback on their preferred topics.
- d. City of Oakdale Meeting
- i. SWT members requested that other members attend a public meeting to express support for a habitat restoration project north of Oakdale which has met resistance from residents. Residents are concerned about Oakdale's commitment to addressing trash and transients on the property.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Stanislaus Watershed Team

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Conference Line: 1 (321) 209-6143; Meeting ID: 297 240 723#MS Teams [webinar](#)

Stanislaus Watershed Team Notes: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/stanislaus-watershed-team.html>

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Agenda

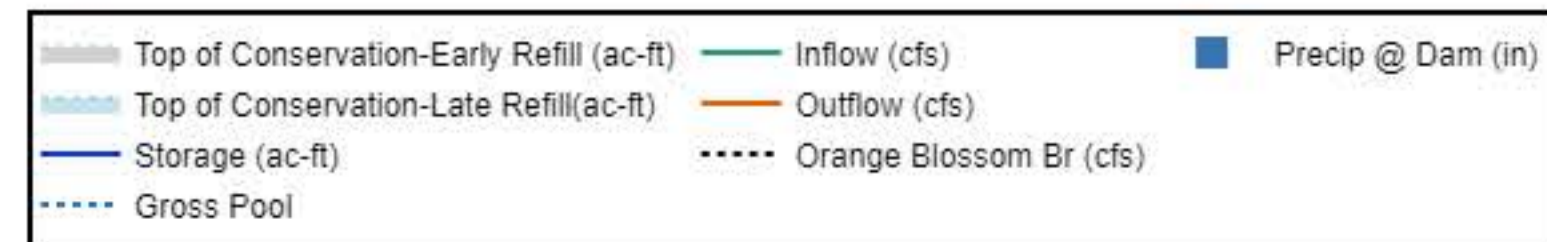
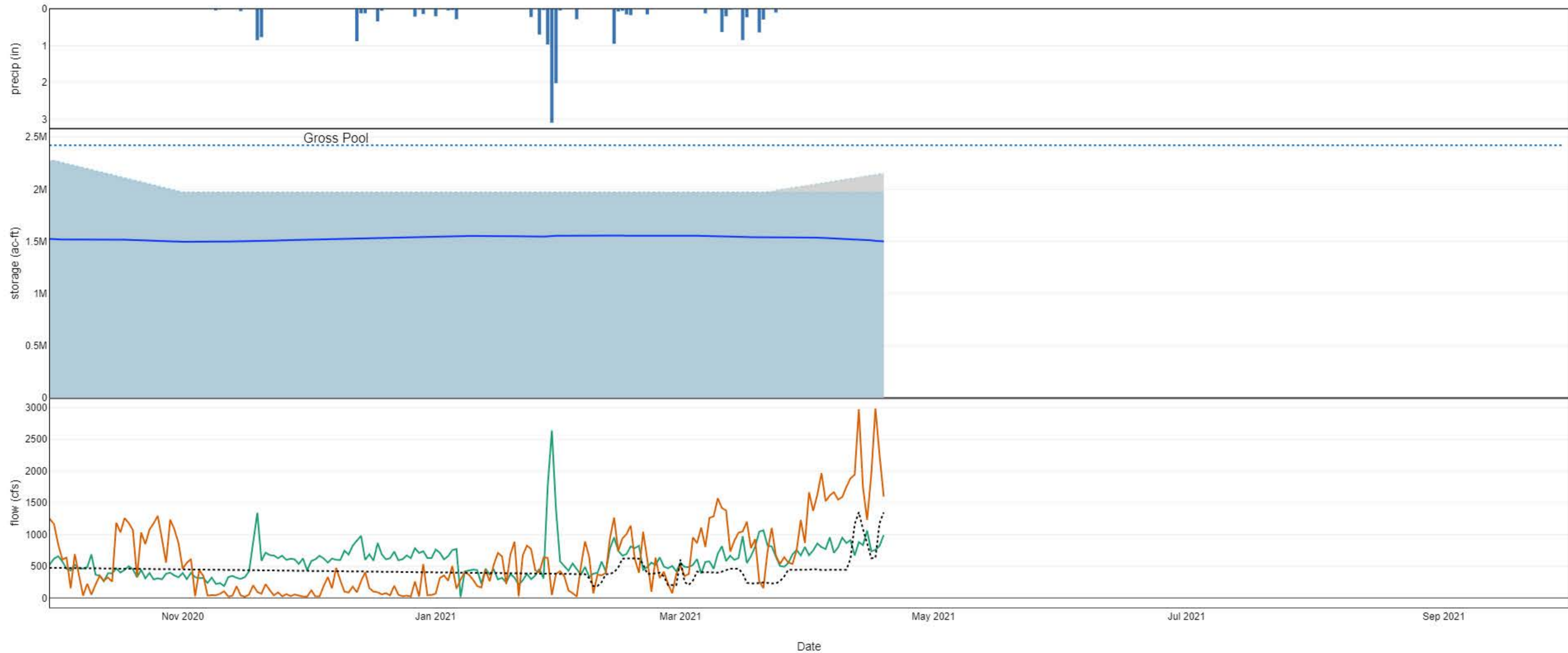
1. Introductions
2. Ground Rules¹
3. Announcements
4. Operations Update and Forecasts/Hydrology
5. Temperature Updates
6. Flow Planning
7. Stanislaus River Forum (SRF) Call Review
8. Fish Monitoring and Studies

¹ The Stanislaus Watershed Team's Ground Rules are as follows:

1. Seek to understand and respect opposing views and suggestions for change (w/in the parameters of the Guidance Document).
2. Seek to leverage collective expertise (including from agencies' & stakeholders' consultants).
3. Hold questions/discussion at the discretion of the presenter.
4. Honor time limits - keep comments and discussion succinct and focused on meeting objectives as needed.
5. Make constructive proposals and suggestions to seek mutually agreeable solutions for all parties.
6. Keep a record of discussion and dialogue.
7. One speaker at a time
8. Take space/make space.

9. Restoration Project Updates
10. Progress Update on Proposed Action Elements
11. Other Discussion Items
 - a. Items to elevate to WOMT
 - b. Ramping rates proposal
 - c. Future presentations
12. Review Action Items
13. Next Meeting
 - a. Wednesday, May 19, 2021 (10am-12pm)

New Melones Dam & Lake - Stanislaus River Basin
 2021-04-19T11:17:43-0700



Current Releases

Goodwin Reservoir's Daily Operations for the month of April can be found at this website:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/gdwdop0421.pdf>

New Melones' Lake Daily Operations for the month of April can be found at this website:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/nmldop0421.pdf>

Tulloch Reservoir's Daily Operations for the month of April can be found at this website:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/tuldop0421.pdf>

Last Month's Releases:

Goodwin Reservoir's Daily Operations for the month of March can be found at this website:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/gdwdop0321.pdf>

New Melones' Lake Daily Operations for the month of March can be found at this website:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/nmldop0321.pdf>

Tulloch Reservoir's Daily Operations for the month of March can be found at this website:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/tuldop0321.pdf>

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation, Central Valley Project-California

Daily CVP Water Supply Report, April 18, 2021, Run Date: April 19, 2021
(Reservoir Releases in Cubic Feet/Second)

Reservoir	Dam	WY 2020	WY 2021	15-Year Median
Trinity	Lewiston	811	875	317
Sacramento	Keswick	6,246	6,562	6,110
Feather	Oroville (SWP)	1,550	1,100	1,750
American	Nimbus	1,466	2,050	1,729
Stanislaus	Goodwin	1,279	1,088	1,504
San Joaquin	Friant	360	325	350

Storage in Major Reservoirs in Thousands of Acre-Feet

Reservoir	Capacity	15-Year Avg	WY 2020	WY 2021	% O 15 Yr Avg
Trinity	2,448	1,768	1,949	1,306	74
Shasta	4,552	3,621	3,749	2,365	65
Folsom	977	672	625	359	53
New Melones	2,420	1,525	1,909	1,501	98
Fed. San Luis	966	689	589	417	61
Total North CVP	11,363	8,275	8,821	5,948	72
Millerton	520	297	293	205	69
Oroville (SWP)	3,538	2,492	2,428	1,488	60

Accumulated Inflow for Water Year to Date in Thousands of Acre-Feet

Reservoir	Current WY 2020	WY 2020	WY 1977	WY 1983	15 Yr Avg
Trinity	210	100	1,360	633	33
Shasta	1,605	1,514	7,693	3,294	49
Folsom	531	215	3,891	1,479	36
New Melones	233	---	1,231	496	47
Millerton	274	116	1,804	526	52
San Joaquin	Friant	360		325	350

Accumulated Precipitation for Water Year to Date in Inches

Reservoir	Current Water Year 2021	WY 1977	WY 1983	AVG (N Yrs)	% of Avg	Last 24 Hours
Trinity at Fish Hatchery	15.62	9.27	50.70	28.19	55	0.00
Sacramento at Shasta Dam	23.04	11.04	103.04	55.21	42	0.00
American at Blue Canyon	30.78	15.64	94.98	59.08	52	0.00
Stanislaus at New Melones	16.65	---	41.68	24.86	67	0.00
San Joaquin at Huntington LK	17.32	11.50	74.70	36.91	47	0.00

April 2021 Water Temperature and Fish Monitoring Update

Year-to-Date Flows

After the spring pulse flow, the SRP flow schedule for Critical years requires 150 cfs through the summer. Goodwin releases since October 1, 2020 are shown in Figure 1.

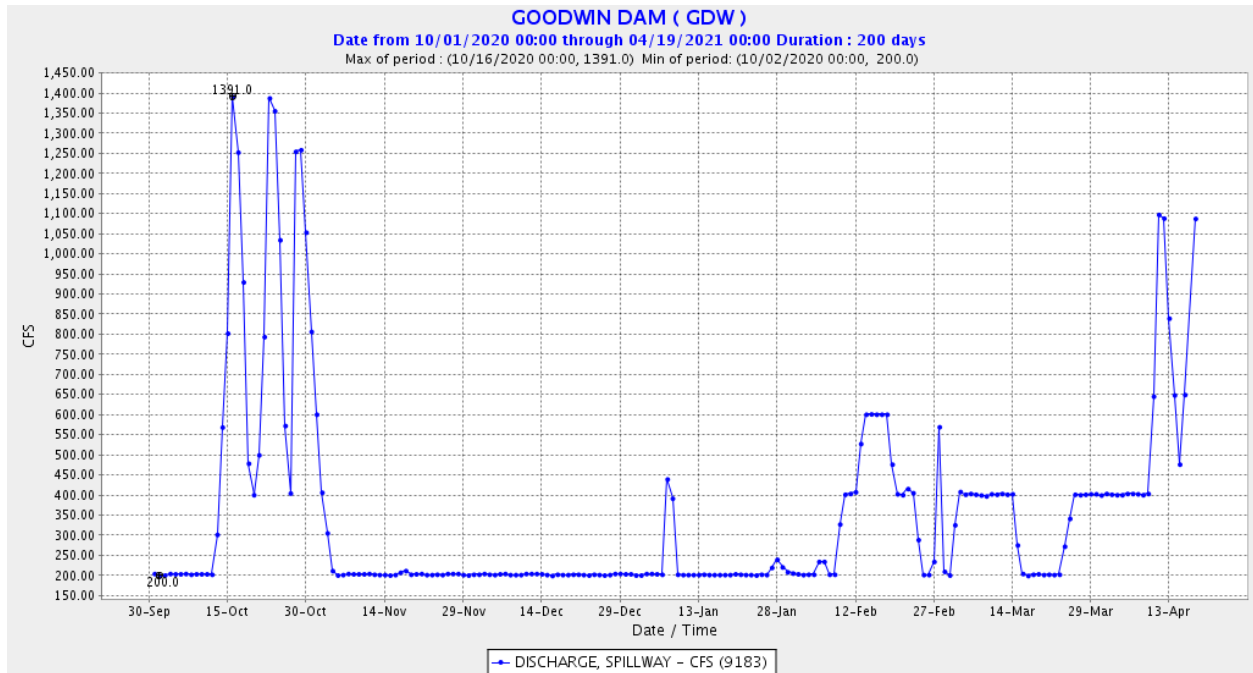


Figure 1. Goodwin (daily) releases to the Stanislaus River since October 1, 2020. Data fromGDW station on CDEC.

Water Temperature

The temperature thresholds included in Figures 2-9, below, are the thresholds used in the 2019 NMFS LTO BiOp² (see Incidental Take Statement on p. 807) to define the extent of take anticipated from water temperature effects in the Stanislaus River. *It is important to note that many of the temperature figures provide subdaily information or information at locations otherthan Orange Blossom Bridge and thus don't reflect the specific metrics for take in the 2019 NMFS LTO BiOp.* Temperature thresholds have been added to these figures at the request of Stanislaus Watershed Team members to provide a general reference of water temperature suitability.

Water temperatures in the Stanislaus River since January 1, 2021 are shown below at Goodwin Canyon (Figure 2), Orange Blossom Bridge (Figure 3), and at Ripon (Figure 4). Water temperatures in the San Joaquin River since January 1, 2021 are shown below at Vernalis (Figure5). Current-year water temperatures are plotted along with historical temperatures for Orange Blossom Bridge (Figure 6), Ripon (Figure 7), and Vernalis (Figure 8). A compilation ofStanislaus River water temperatures and Goodwin releases is provided in Figure 9.

² The 2019 NMFS LTO BiOp is available online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/biological-opinion-reinitiation-consultation-long-term-operation-central-valley>



USGS 11302000 STANISLAUS R BL GOODWIN DAM NR KNIGHTS FERRY CA

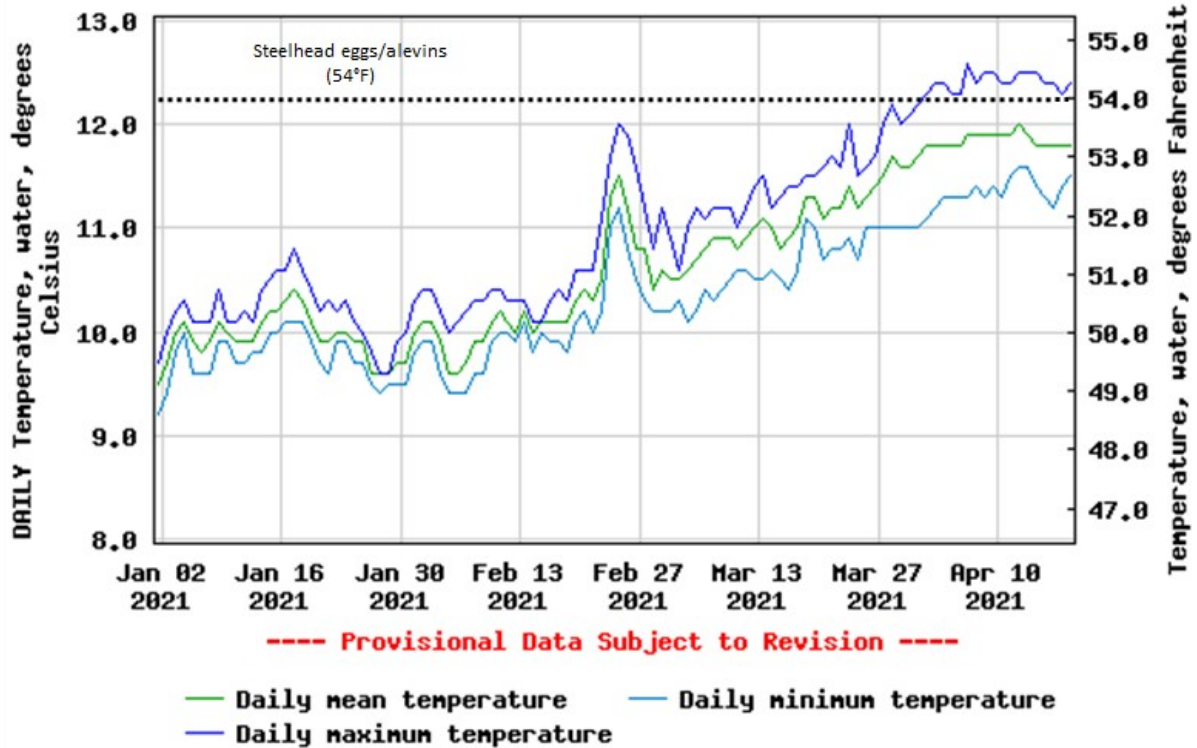


Figure 2. Daily water temperatures on the Stanislaus River upstream of Knights Ferry since January 1, 2021. Data from USGS gage 11302000 on NWIS; temperature threshold referenceline added by SWT.

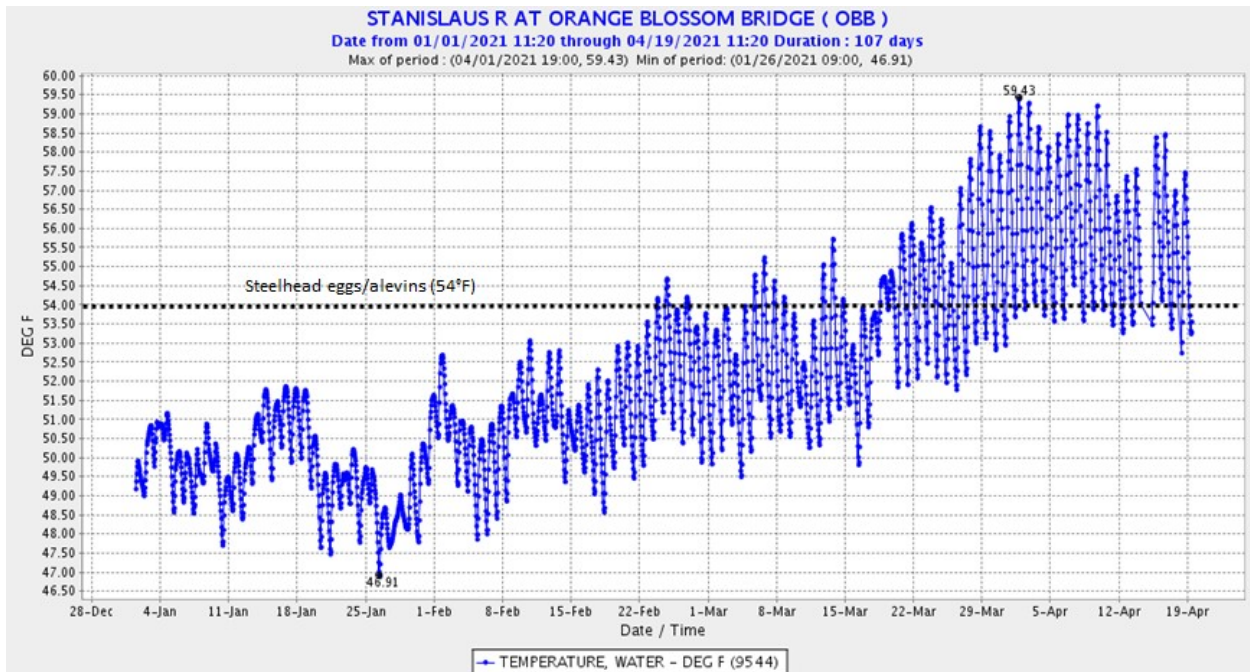


Figure 3. Stanislaus (hourly) water temperatures at Orange Blossom Bridge since January 1, 2021. Data from OBB station on CDEC; temperature threshold reference line added by SWT.

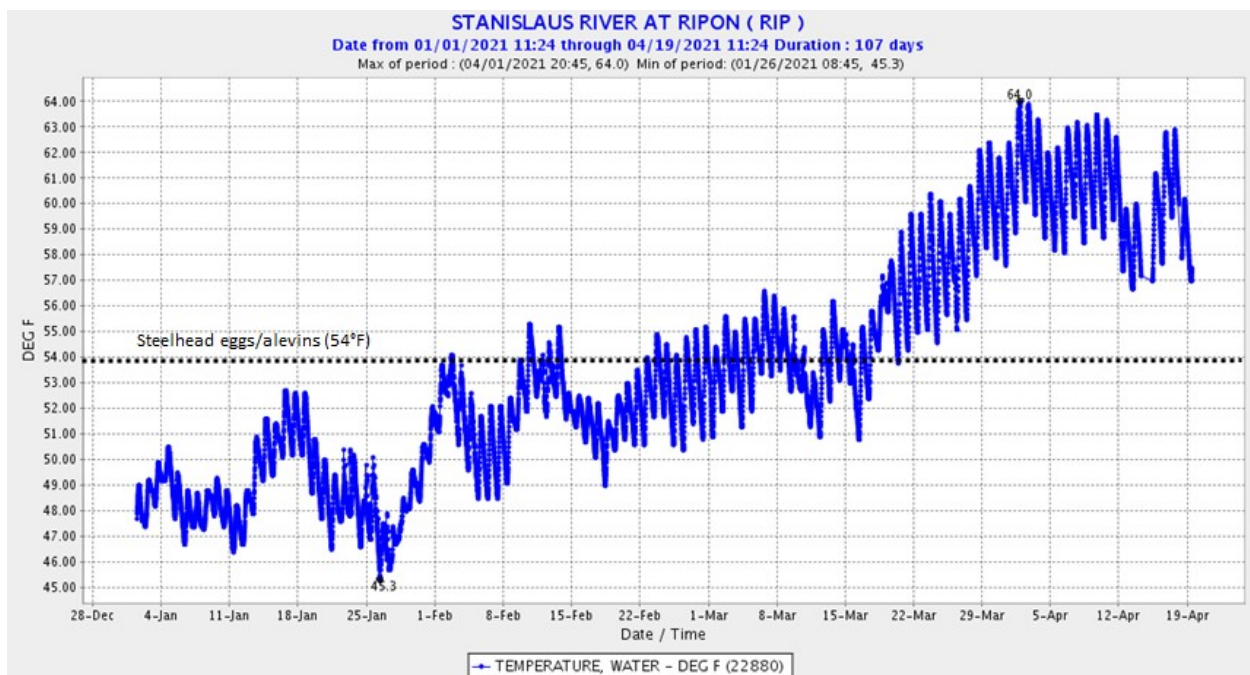


Figure 4. Stanislaus (15-minute) water temperatures at Ripon since January 1, 2021. Data from RIP station on CDEC; temperature threshold reference lines added by SWT.

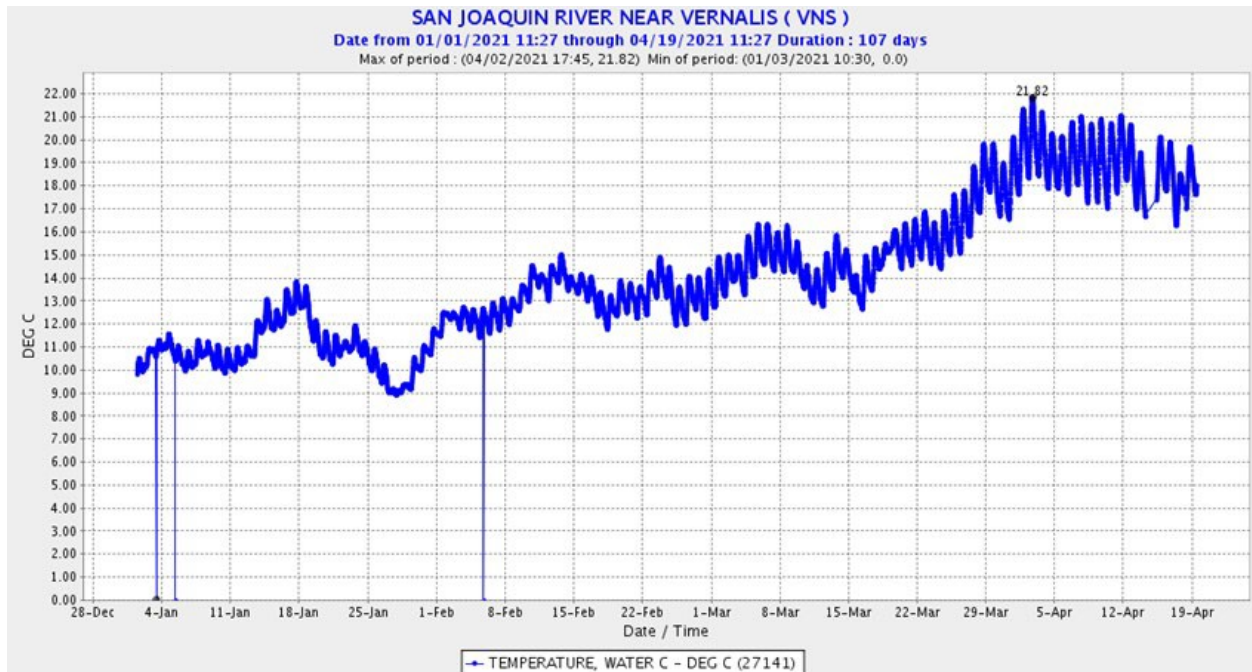


Figure 5. San Joaquin River (15-minute) water temperatures at Vernalis since January 1, 2021. Data from VNS station on CDEC; temperature threshold reference line added by SWT. Note that, unlike in the previous figures, temperature is reported in degrees Celsius. 10°C=50°F; 12°C=53.6°F; 14°C=57.2°F; 16°C=60.8°F; 18°C=64.4°F; 20°C=68.0°F; 22°C=71.6°F; 24°C=75.2°F; 26°C=78.8°F; 28°C=82.4°F; 30°C=86.0°F.

WY 2001-2021 OBB Stanislaus R at Orange Blossom Bridge
Daily Average Water Temperature (F)
Observed Range 36.30-70.40

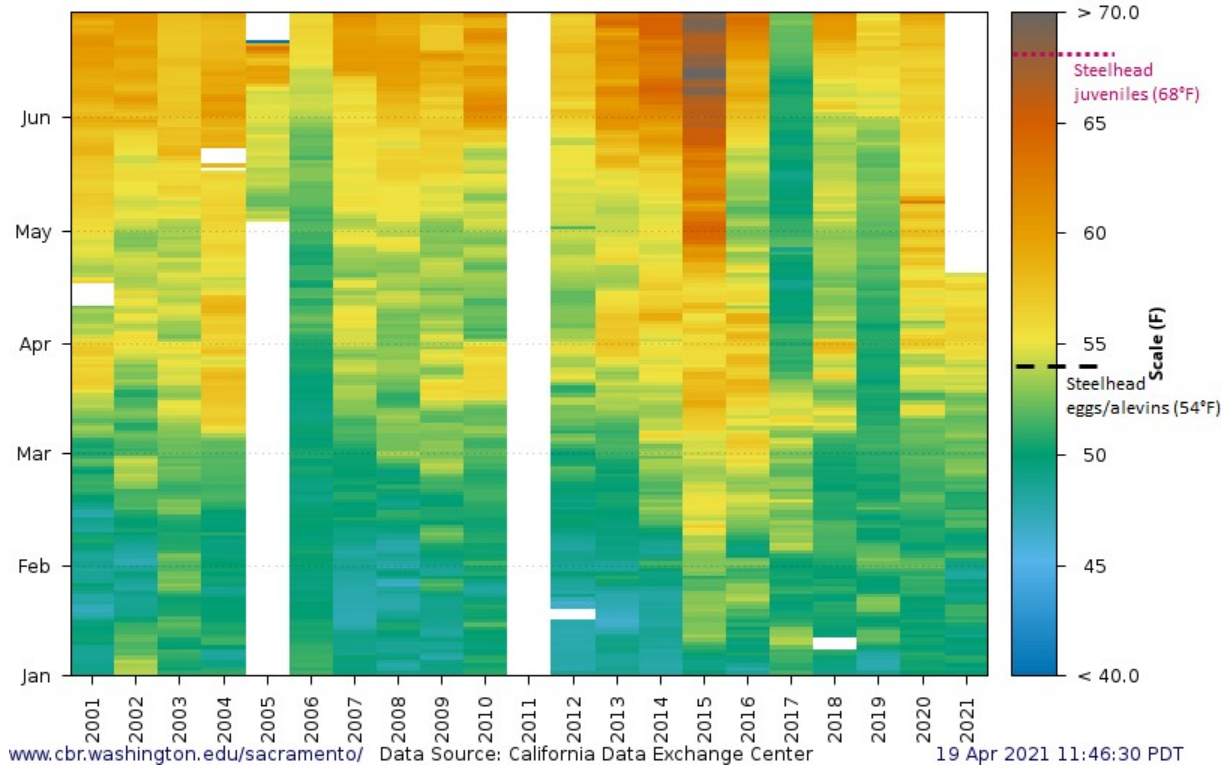


Figure 6. Stanislaus River water temperatures at Orange Blossom Bridge for January through June from 2001 to present. Data from SacPAS; temperature threshold reference lines added bySWT.
http://www.cbr.washington.edu/sacramento/data/query_river_allyears.html

WY 2012-2021 RIP Stanislaus R at Ripon (USGS)
Daily Average Water Temperature (F)
Observed Range 43.04-81.63

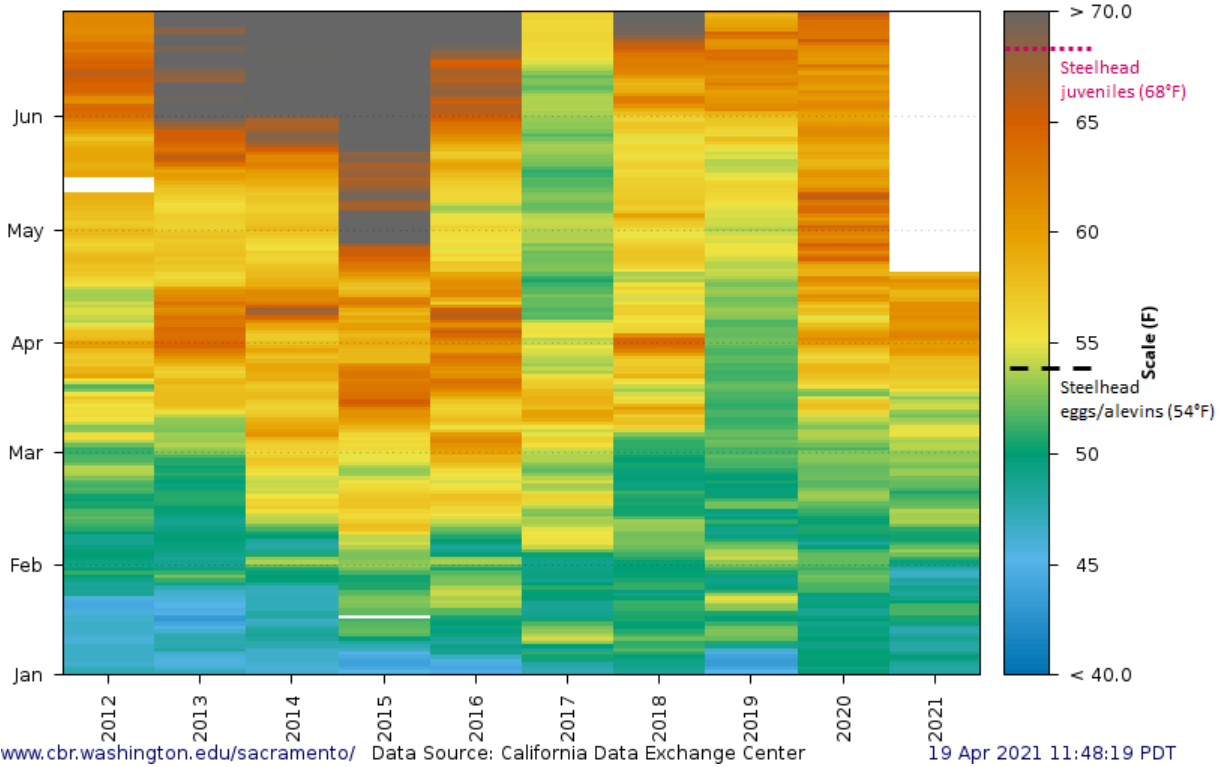


Figure 7. Stanislaus River water temperatures at Ripon for January through June from 2012 to present. Figure from SacPAS using RIP station data from CDEC; temperature threshold reference lines added by SWT.

http://www.cbr.washington.edu/sacramento/data/query_river_allyears.html

WY 2015-2021 VNS San Joaquin R near Vernalis
Daily Average Water Temperature (F)
Observed Range 44.20-82.18

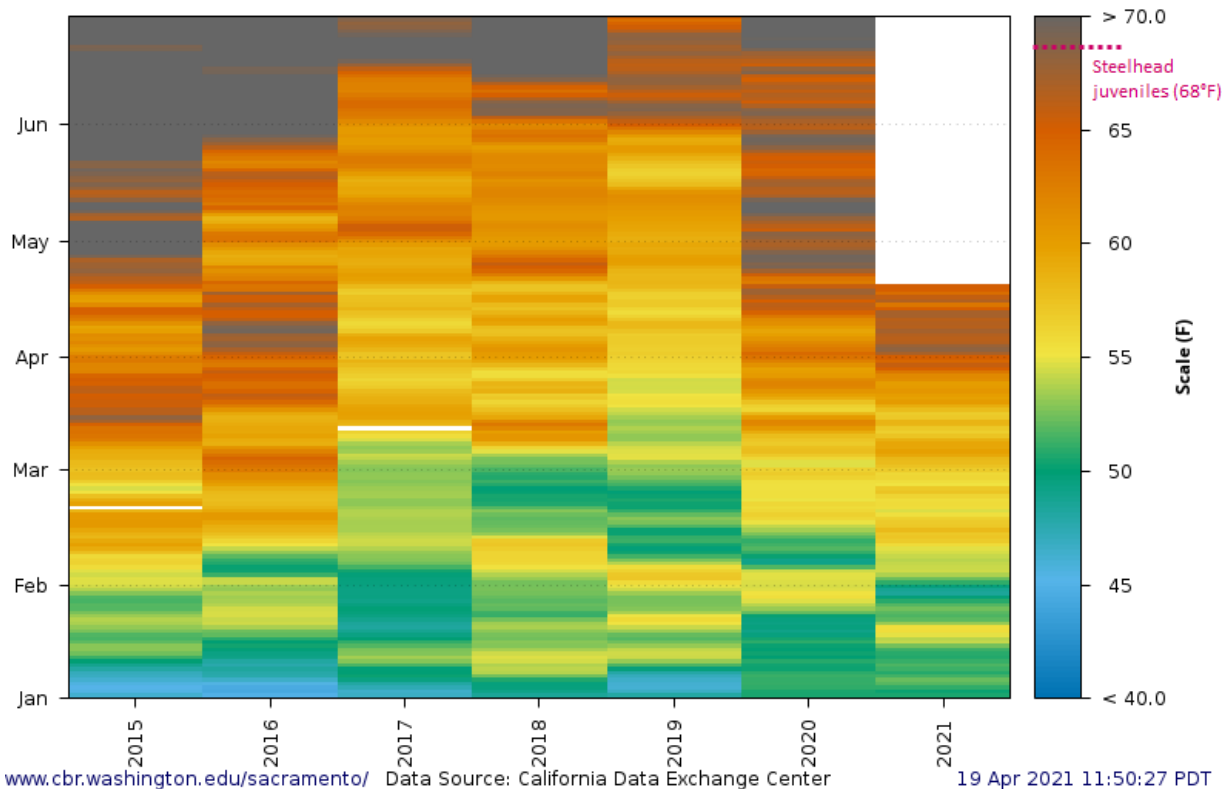


Figure 8. San Joaquin River water temperatures at Vernalis for January through June from 2015 to present. Figure from SacPAS using VNS station data from CDEC; temperature threshold reference line added by SWT. http://www.cbr.washington.edu/sacramento/data/query_river_allyears.html

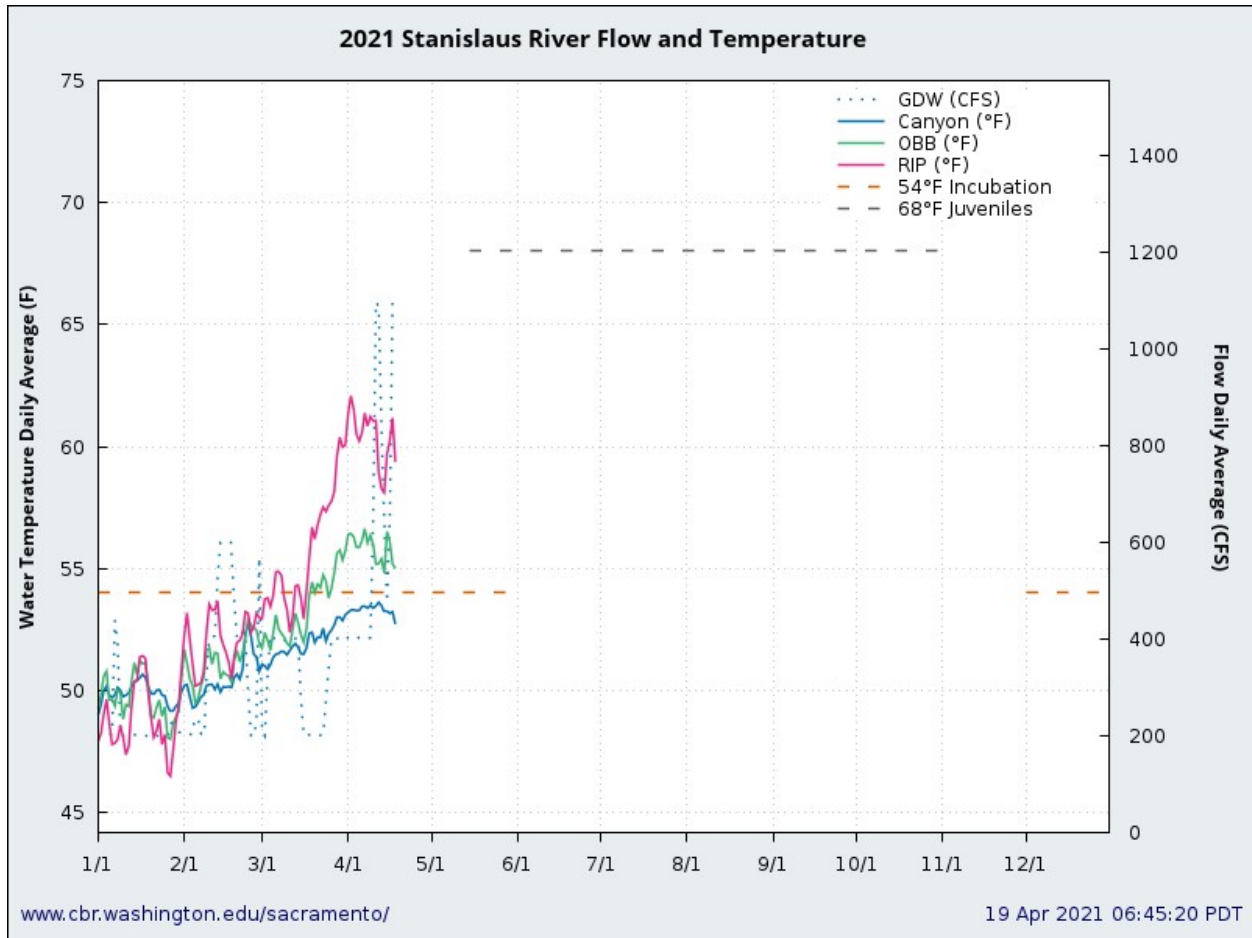


Figure 9. Stanislaus River flow and water temperatures from January 1, 2021 to present. Data(including temperature threshold reference lines) from SacPAS:
http://www.cbr.washington.edu/sacramento/data/tc_stanislaus.html

Update on Fish Monitoring

Rotary screw trapping at Oakdale (conducted by FISHBIO) and Caswell [conducted by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)] for the 2020/2021 outmigration season(for monitoring of outmigrating juvenile salmonids) began in early January. Chinook catch at each location is summarized in Figure 10 (Oakdale) and Figures 11 and 12 (Caswell). Through April 13, 2021, the trap at Caswell has captured a total of 98 unmarked Chinook salmon,

0 unmarked steelhead, and 3,247 juvenile lamprey.

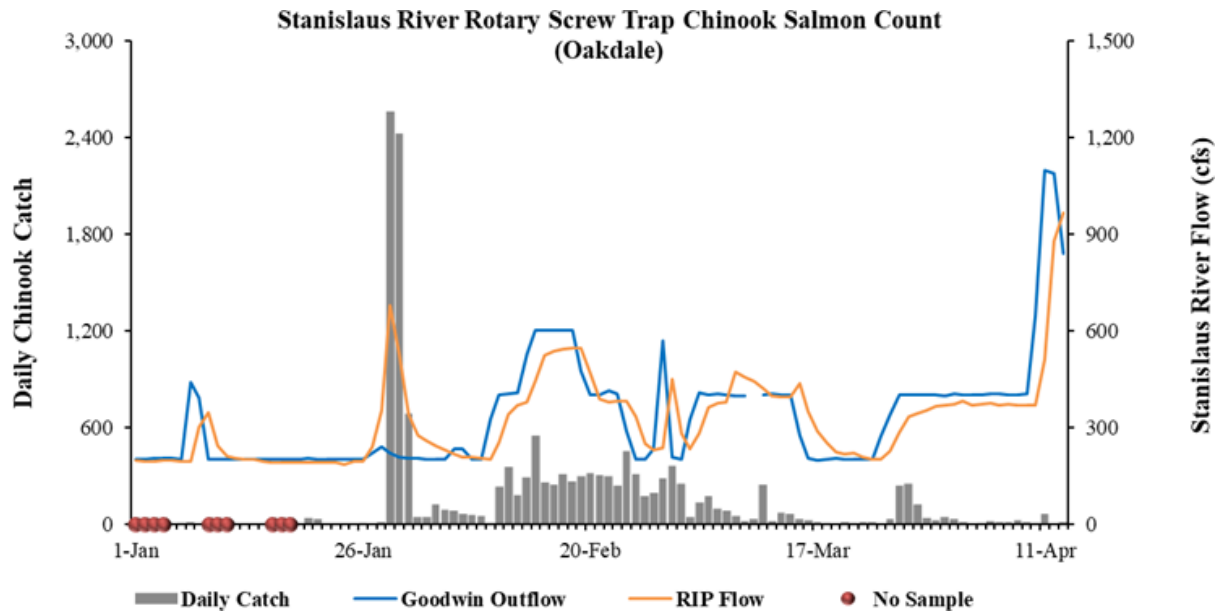


Figure 10. Daily juvenile Chinook catch through April 13, 2021, at the rotary screw trap nearOakdale. Figure courtesy of Fishbio from their San Joaquin Basin update.

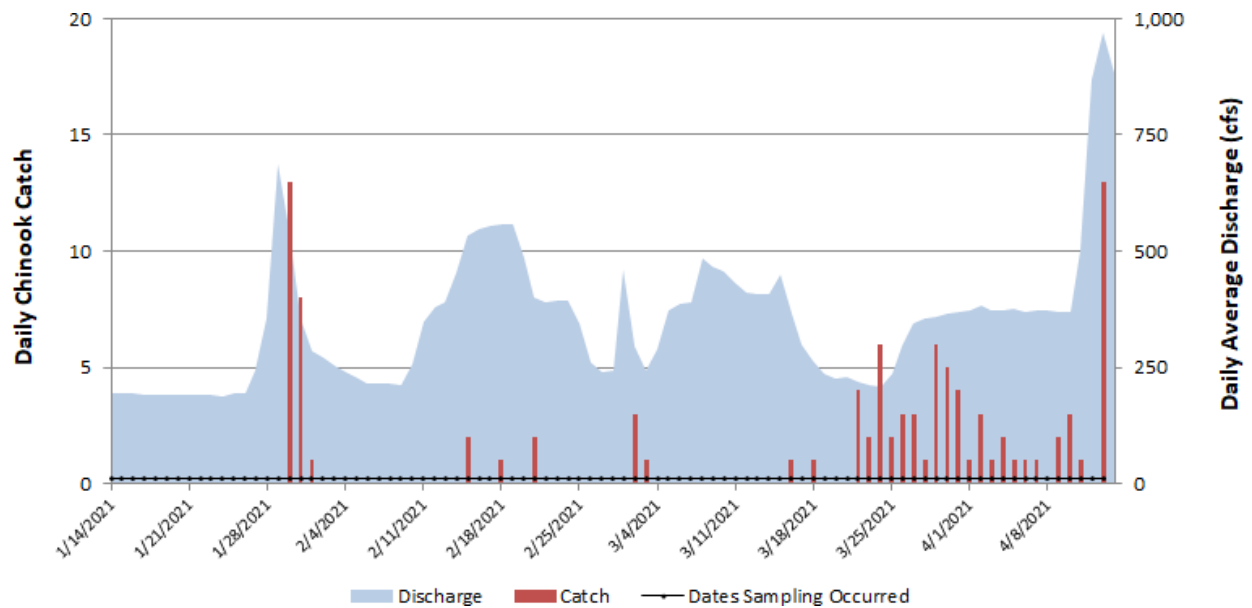


Figure 11. Daily juvenile Chinook catch through April 13, 2021, at the rotary screw trap near Caswell State Park. Discharge data is at Ripon. Figure courtesy of Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

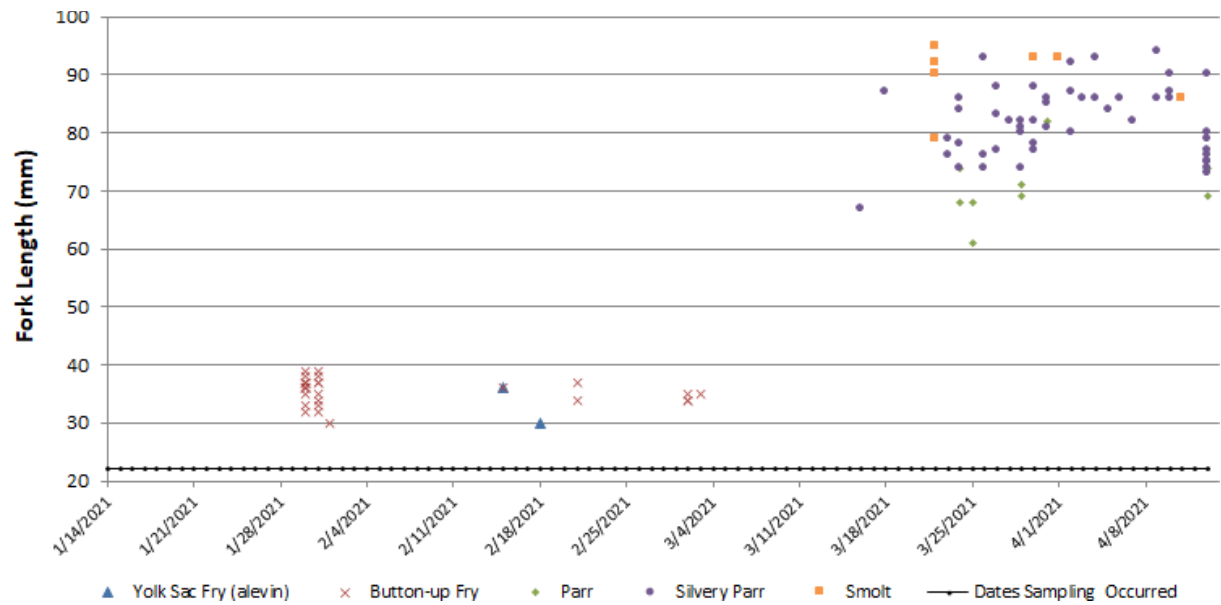


Figure 12. Daily juvenile Chinook catch (plotted by fork length and life stage) through April 13, 2021, at the rotary screw trap near Caswell State Park. Figure courtesy of Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.