# Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook

12/24/2024 – 12/30/2024

## Water Project Operational Intent for Week

Continue joint operations to implement “First Flush” conditions (COA 8.3.1 of ITP) with a 14 day averaged OMRI no more negative than –2,00 cfs AND to meet all applicable provisions of SWRCB Decision 1641.

## Biological Context

The “First Flush” action has been “triggered” and is “controlling” joint CVP/SWP exports.

## Forecasted Weather

Chances for precipitation, snow and windy conditions continue through the weekend as a series of storms moves through the area. Possibility of thunderstorms on Tuesday,

## Tables

Table 1: Anticipated weekly operational ranges by tributary. Environmental and fish conditions updated by respective watershed groups at varying intervals that may not coincide with the weekly range of Water Operations

| Tributary/Division | Anticipated Weekly Ranges | Related Environmental and Fish Conditions |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Clear Creek | * Current Release: 275 cfs plus spillway releases * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 275 cfs or greater | * Spring-run Chinook Salmon fry are emerging from redds and are rearing/emigrating. * Fall-run Chinook Salmon eggs are incubating in the gravel, and fry are emerging from redds and are rearing/emigrating. Late fall-run Chinook Salmon are entering and beginning to spawn. Eggs are incubating in the gravel. * O. mykiss adults are entering and are beginning to spawn. Eggs are incubating in the gravel.   (Updated 1/9/2023) |
| * Sacramento River | * Shasta Storage: 2.975 MAF * Current Release: 4,000 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 4,000 cfs. | * Spring-run Chinook salmon fry have completed final redd emergence and are rearing or migrating downstream. Winter-run Chinook juvenile salmon have mostly migrated downstream. Winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon (length-at-date) juveniles are being caught in low numbers and genetics being taken to confirm run assignment. * Fall-run Chinook salmon spawning is complete. Carcass surveys for fall-run are underway. Some Eggs/fry are incubating in gravel. First emergence was around mid-Dec. * Late fall-run Chinook salmon are spawning and eggs in gravel. Late-fall spawning can occur up to late March but majority over by end of January. * Fall-run juveniles, according to length-at-date-criteria, are being caught at increasing numbers at the RBDD rotary traps.   (Updated 1/9/23) |
| * Feather River | * Oroville Storage: 2.022 MAF * Current Release: 1750 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1750 cfs * Daily temperature maximum: 55 F at Fish Hatchery | * Fall-run Chinook salmon eggs are incubating in gravel and fry are beginning to emerge and move downstream. Spring-run Chinook salmon fry are emerging and juveniles are moving downstream * Approximately 15-20 green sturgeon present from Sunset Pumps to Boyd’s Pump. * Adult and juvenile O. mykiss present.   (Updated 1/9/2023) |
| American River | * Folsom Storage: 300 TAF * Current Release: 2,000 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 2,000 cfs | * Adult fall-run Chinook Salmon have completed spawning Eggs are incubating in gravel and fry are beginning to emerge from redds. Redd and carcass surveys have ended. Juvenile and adult O. mykiss are present.   (Updated 1/10/23) |
| Stanislaus River | * New Melones Storage: 1.839 MAF * Current Release: 200 cfs * Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 200 cfs | * Juvenile and adult O. mykiss are present. * Adult fall-run Chinook salmon are present and spawning. Eggs are incubating in gravel. Fry should begin emerging from redds beginning mid-January.   (Updated 1/3/23) |
| Delta | * Freeport: 25,000 to 55,000 cfs * Vernalis: 1000 to 1500 cfs * Delta Outflow index: 32,000 to 55,000 cfs * Combined Exports: 2200 to 4800 cfs * JPP: 1,800 cfs to 4,200 cfs * CCF: 400 cfs to 600 cfs * Expected Daily OMR Index Values: -1,800 to -2,200 cfs * DCC Gates: Closed as of 11/18. * X2 at 70 km * Tides: Neap to Spring: New Moon on 12/30 | * Adult O. mykiss present. * Young-of-year spring-run and winter-run Chinook salmon juveniles are moving downstream. * Adult and juvenile Green Sturgeon present * An unmarked Delta Smelt adult was preliminarily reported by EDSM as caught in the South Delta on 1/17/23. The salvage of a cultured DS adult at CVP occurred on 1/7/23. Experimental release of hatchery Delta Smelt at Rio Vista occurred 11/30/22. * Longfin Smelt sub-adults and adults have recently been detected in the lower San Joaquin River, Chipps, as well as Suisun Marsh and Suisun Bay. Spawning is ongoing and LFS larvae have recently been detected in the lower Sacramento River, confluence, and downstream to San Pablo Bay. Three adult LFS have been salvaged at the CVP this WY for an expanded total of 12.   (Updated 1/17/2023) |

Table 2a-b: WY 2023 relevant Fish and Environmental Criteria and Status in 2019 Reclamation LTO Action Cumulative loss for the duration of 2019 Biological Opinion began upon signature of ROD, 2/19/2020.

Table 2a: WY 2023 Salmonid Current Loss and Delta Smelt Abiotic Conditions. Additional Real-Time OMR Restrictions and Performance Objectives (4.10.5.10.2, 4.10.5.10.3) and Onset of OMR Management (4.10.5.10.1). Genetic identification of salmon is not used in calculating loss, but results are included in the Assessment as they become available.

\* Draft WR JPE for BY2022 is 44,690. Final JPE letter is expected in January.

| Species/run | Threshold | Current Status | Weekly Trend | Updated |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Green sturgeon | WY 2023 salvage = 74 | WY 2023 salvage = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 1/16/2023 |
| Natural winter-run Chinook Salmon | WY 2023 loss = TBD \*  (50% of 1.17% of JPE) | WY 2023 loss = 41.98 | Possible salvage | 1/13/2023 |
| Natural Steelhead | Dec 1 – Mar 31 = 707 (50% of 1,414)  Apr 1 – June 15 = 776 (50% of 1,552) | WY 2023 loss = 22.76  Dec 1 – Mar 31 = 25.48 (3.6%)  Apr 1 – June 15 = 0 (0%) | Possible salvage | 1/13/2023 |
| Sacramento River Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | WY 2023 loss = TBD\* (50% of 0.12% of JPE) | WY 2023 loss = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 1/16/2023 |
| Battle Creek  Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | WY 2023 loss = TBD \*  (50% of 0.12% of JPE) | WY 2023 loss = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 1/16/2023 |
| Proposed Action Hatchery yearling spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates | > 0.5% of each release group | WY 2023 loss = 0 (0%)\* | No change expected | 1/16/2023 |
| Delta Smelt | * After Dec. 1: * Running 3-day avg. flows at Freeport >25,000 cfs * Running 3-day avg. turbidity at Freeport =>50 FNU | Freeport 3-day avg.  Flow = 75,692 cfs  Turbidity = 128.2 FNU | * Triggered 12/31/22, will last through 01/16/2023 * Flow: remain elevated and dynamic * Turbidity: remain elevated | 1/9/2023  Data from 1/8/2023 |
| Delta Smelt | Daily avg. Turbidity at OBI=>12 FNU | OBI daily Avg Turbidity = 17.83 FNU | Remain elevated | 1/16/2023 |
| Delta Smelt | Daily avg. Temperature at CCF > 25°C for three consecutive days | CCF daily avg. Temperature = Not relevant | Not relevant | 12/20/2022 |

Table 2b. 10-Year Salmonid Cumulative Loss

| Species/run | Threshold | Current Status | Updated |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Natural winter-run Chinook salmon | Loss = 8,738 | Cumulative loss =  306.  16 (3.5%) | 1/17/2023 |
| Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | Loss = 5,356 | Cumulative loss =  6.71 (0.13%) | 1/17/2023 |
| Natural steelhead | Loss = 6,038 (Dec 1 – Mar 31) Loss = 5,826 (Apr 1 – June 15) | Cumulative loss =  555.68 (9.20%, Dec 1 – Mar 31)  474.5 (8.1%, Apr 1 – June 15) | 1/17/2023 |

Table 3a-d: Relevant Water Year 2023 Fish Criteria and Status for Listed Fish under the SWP Long-Term Incidental Take Permit.

Table 3a: Chinook Salmon

\* Draft WR JPE for BY2022 is 44,690. Final JPE letter is expected in January.

\*\* Based on the lab results received (up to sample date 1/2/23), there was no natural WR identified through genetic verification process.

| Action | Timeframe | Current Action Status | Threshold(s) | Current Relevant Data | Weekly Trend | Last  Updated | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| OMR Mgmt.  triggered (8.3.2) | Jan. 1 - Jun. 30  *(when ≥ 5% of spring-run or winter- run in*  *Delta)* | Not in effect | -5% of the  Winter-run or Spring-run population in  Delta | N/A | N/A | 12/18/22 | N/A |
| Winter-run yearly loss  (8.6.1) | Nov. 1 - Jun. 30 | In effect | TBD (based on JPE)\* | WR loss: 41.98\*\* | Possible salvage | 1/17/23 | Based on salvage data from 1/16/23 |
| Winter-run discrete daily loss (8.6.2) | Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 | Not in effect | 12/1-12/31: loss of 26/day unclipped older juv. Winter-run | Daily loss from 12/18 unclipped WR salvage: 17.54 fish/TAF<26 fish/TAF | Possible salvage | 1/3/23 | Based on salvage data from 12/18/22 |
| Mid and late season Winter-run daily loss threshold (8.6.3) | Jan 1 – May 31 | In effect | 1/1/23 -1/31/23 Daily loss of older juvenile greater than 2.84 | Salvage of older juvenile with loss of 2.72 on 1/13/23 and 2.60 on 1/14/23 | Possible salvage | 1/17/23 | Based on salvage data from 1/16/23 |
| Spring-run surrogate protection  (8.6.4) | Feb. 1 - Jun. 30 | Not in effect | TBD (based on the number of fish released) | N/A | N/A | 10/31/22 | N/A |

Table 3b: Delta Smelt

| Action | Timeframe | Current Action Status | Threshold(s) | Current Relevant Data | Weekly Trend | Last Updated | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Integrated Early Winter Pulse Protection ('First Flush') (8.3.1) | Dec. 1 - Jan. 31 | Triggered 12/31/2022, -2000 OMR action will last through 1/16/2023 | - three-day Freeport daily flow running avg>= 25,000 AND  [three-day Freeport turbidity running avg >=50 NTU OR Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation] | FPT flow: 75,692 cfs  FPT turbidity: 128.2 FNU | Dynamic and elevated | 1/9/23 | Data from 1/8/23 |
| Turbidity Bridge Avoidance (8.5.1) | Dec. 15 -  Apr. 1 | In effect, triggered | Occurs after the Integrated Early Winter Pulse protection or February 1 (whichever comes first) until April 1  -avg. OBI turbidity>12 FNU | OBI = 17.83 FNU | Elevated | 1/17/23 | Data from 1/16/23 |
| Larval and/Juvenile Delta smelt Protection (8.5.2) | ongoing | In effect, not triggered | - If 5-day cum. salvage of juv.DS >= 1[average 3-yrFMWT index + 1], then –5000 OMR  - If DS in SLS/20mm or 3-d temp at Jersey Point >= 12C, and SLS/20mm Secchi for 12 south delta stations <= 1m, then –3500 OMR | Current 5-day salvage = 0  3-day SJJ temp = 10.74  SLS 1 avg Secchi = 26 cm | No change expected | 1/17/23 | Data from 1/16/23 |

Table 3c: Longfin Smelt

| Action | Timeframe | Current Action Status | Threshold(s) | Current Relevant Data | Weekly Trend | Last Updated | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Early Adult Protection (8.3.3) | Dec. 1 - Feb. 28 | Off-ramped | -Cum. salvage > [most recent FMWT/10] =40 fish (Sept.-Dec. Index) OR  -Smelt Monitoring Team determines high likelihood of LFS movement into high-risk areas | Cum salvage total = 12 | No change expected | 1/17/23 | Salvage at CVP on 1/1/23 and 1/14/23 and 1/15/23 |
| OMR Mgt. for Adults (8.4.1) | Dec. 1 -Feb. 28 | Off-ramped | -Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation | N/A | N/A | 12/27/22 | N/A |
| Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection (8.4.2) | Jan 1 – Jun 30 | In effect, not triggered | -LFS larvae or juveniles in >=4 SLS or 20 mm stations in central and south Delta, OR  -LFS catch/tow >5 larvae or juveniles in >=2stations | SLS #1: 0 larvae in central and south Delta | None expected | 1/17/23 | SLS 1 was in the field 1/3 - 1/6 |
| High Flow OMR Off-Ramp for Longfin Smelt (8.4.3) | Based on the status of 8.3.3, 8.4.1, & 8.4.2 | Triggered, not controlling | -Sac. R. at Rio Vista>55,000, OR  SJR at Vernalis >8,000 | Rio Vista = 70,000 – 130,000 cfs  SJ = 15,000 to 23,000 cfs | N/A | 1/17/23 | N/A |

Table 3d: OMR

| Action | Timeframe | Current Action Status | Threshold(s) | Current Relevant Data | Weekly Trend | Last Updated | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| OMR Storm Flexibility (8.7) | Jan 1 – Jun 30 | Not in Effect | -Delta is in excess  -QWEST is > 0  -Measurable amount of precipitation has occurred  -None of COA’s are controlling operations (8.3.1, 8.3.3, 8.4.1, 8.4.2, 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 8.6.1, 8.6.2, 8.6.3, 8.6.4)  -Cumulative salvage at CVP and SWP of yearling CNFH LFR Chinook salmon (as yearling CHNSR surrogates) is < 0.5% with any of the release groups  -Risk Assessments conducted by the SaMT/SMT determines no changes in spawning, rearing, foraging, sheltering, or migration behavior as a result of OMR Flex operations beyond those are likely to occur. | N/A | N/A | 1/3/23 | Based on storm conditions |
| OMR  Mgmt.  Offramp  (8.8) | Jun. 1 – Jun. 30 | Not in effect | ->95% of the Winter-run and Spring run populations have migrated past Chipps Island AND  -Current daily average water temperature at Mossdale and Prisoners Point.  Days exceeded: Criteria met as of 6/16/2022 | N/A | N/A | 10/10/22 | N/A |

Table 4: Fish monitoring gear efficiency and disruptions. Status Categories: [1] Active (ongoing sampling), [2] Partial Interruption (some sampling interruptions), [3] Interrupted (sampling fully suspended), [4] Not Active (sampling not scheduled)

| Monitoring survey | Region | Notes (as of 12/24/2024) | Status |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWP regular counts, CWT reading | Delta | Active; delay in CWT reading as DWR staff was unable to reach Skinner fish facility before 1/17 morning due to road closure for flooding. | 1 |
| SWP larval sampling | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| CVP regular counts, CWT reading | Delta | Active | 1 |
| CVP larval sampling | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| Smelt Larval Survey | Delta | Active | 1 |
| LEPS | Delta | Active | 1 |
| 20mm Survey | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| Spring Kodiak Trawl | Delta | Active | 1 |
| Fall Mid-water Trawl | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| Summer Townet Survey | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| Bay Study | Delta | Active | 1 |
| DJFMP- Chipps and Sacramento Trawls | Delta | Active (sampling three days a week starting in May) | 1 |
| DJFMP- Seines | Delta | Active | 1 |
| EDSM | Delta | Active | 1 |
| EMP | Delta | Active | 1 |
| Mossdale | Delta | Active | 1 |
| USGS Flow monitoring | Delta | Active | 1 |
| Red Bluff Diversion Dam Rotary Screw Trap (RST) | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Knights Landing RST | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Tisdale RST | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| GCID RST | Sacramento River | Not Active (Traps pulled out of river due to high flows on 12/27) | 4 |
| Yuba River (Hallwood) RST | Yuba River | Active – weekdays only | 1 |
| Redd dewatering and stranding surveys | Sacramento River | Not Active | 4 |
| Sacramento Carcass and Redd Surveys | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Lower Sacramento RST | Sacramento River | Not Active as of 12/29 | 4 |
| Feather River (upper DWR) RST | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Feather River (lower CDFW) RST | Sacramento River | Active (inactive on 1/4-1/10) | 2 |
| SJRRP CDFW Field Monitoring | San Joaquin River | Active | 1 |
| SJRRP USFWS and USBR Field Monitoring | San Joaquin River | Not Active | 4 |
| Stanislaus Fish Weir | San Joaquin River | Active | 1 |

Preference (i.e., a y-intercept of 0.5)