Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 6/27/2023 – 7/3/2023

Water Project Operational Intent for Week

* COA 8.5.2 of the State ITP is no longer triggered due to most recent (20mm Survey 8) average Secchi depth > 1m.

Biological Context

* The Bay/Delta is in “excess” conditions and no ESA biological protections are “controlling” water project operations.

Forecasted Weather

* Dry conditions with a slight chance of mountain showers early in the week. Hot weather returns by the middle of the week, becoming increasingly hot for the 4th of July holiday weekend.

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: 150 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 150 cfs | * Spring-run Chinook Salmon adults are migrating into Clear Creek. * Fall run and late-fall run Chinook Salmon juveniles are rearing in low numbers and emigration has slowed considerably. * *O. mykiss* fry and juveniles are rearing in Clear Creek. Emigration has slowed. * *(updated 6/26/23)* |
| Sacramento River | * Shasta Storage: 4.328 MAF * Current Release: 9,500 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases:9,500 cfs to 10,000 cfs for storage management. | * Holding adult winter-run Chinook are spawning in the upper river. Winter-run carcass survey is in progress. * Adult Winter-run and Spring-run Chinook are completing migrating upstream into their holding and spawning areas; for spring-run this is occurring in both the river and the tributaries. * Fall-run Chinook salmon LAD are outmigrating in diminishing numbers. * Late-fall-run juveniles are emerging and some migrating downstream while others hold in the upper river over summer until the lower river cools. * O. mykiss spawning is mostly complete, eggs are incubating and fry are emerging. Juveniles are passing RBDD in increasing numbers. * Increasing numbers of larval green sturgeon are being captured at RBDD * (updated 6/26/23) |
| Feather River | * Oroville Storage: 3.523 MAF * Current Release: 3,500 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1,500 cfs to 3,500 cfs * Daily temperature maximum: 56 +/- 4 F at Fish Hatchery, changes to 60 +/- 4 F on June 16 | * Fall-run Chinook salmon juveniles are rearing/emigrating. * Spring-run Chinook salmon juveniles are emigrating. Adults are migrating upstream and starting to enter the hatchery. * *O. mykiss* adult spawning is complete. Juveniles are rearing/emigrating. * Adult green sturgeon are currently spawning in the lower Feather River. * *(updated 6/26/23)* |
| American River | * Folsom Storage: 927 TAF * Current Release: 4,000 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 3,500 cfs to 4,500 cfs for storage management. | * Adult fall-run Chinook Salmon have completed spawning. Eggs have emerged and fry are migrating downstream. * Redd and carcass surveys have ended. * Juvenile and adult *O. mykiss* are present. Adult steelhead spawning has completed. Fry have emerged and are currently rearing in the lower American River. * (*updated 6/12/23*) |
| Stanislaus River | * New Melones Storage: 2.021 MAF * Current Release: 1,500 cfs * Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 750 cfs to 1,500 cfs (releases reduced during the weekend for recreational safety) | * Adult *O. mykiss* are present and juveniles are rearing and migrating. First *O. mykiss* smolt was captured at Mossdale trawl on 6/10/23. * Juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon are still migrating downstream but in decreasing numbers *(updated 6/12/23)* |
| Delta | * Freeport: 10,000 to 17,000 cfs * Vernalis: 8,000 to 15,000 cfs * Delta Outflow index: 10,000 to 20,000 cfs * Combined Exports: 3,500 to 10,880 cfs * JPP: Current 4,200 cfs Range 3,500 cfs to 4,200 cfs * CCF: Current 1,000 cfs Range 0 cfs to 6,680 cfs * Expected Daily OMR Index Values: -5,000 cfs to +2,000 cfs * DCC Gates: Opened on 6/23 | * Adult O. mykiss present. * SaMT estimates all of winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon have exited the Delta.. * Adult and juvenile Green Sturgeon present * Delta Smelt spawning is ending. 36 confirmed larval and 1 juvenile DS have been detected since 3/13/23 in the Confluence, lower Sac River, Honker Bay, Suisun Bay, Suisun Marsh, Sac Deepwater Ship Channel, and Cache Slough / Liberty Island. No DS were detected in salvage in the last two weeks, and adult DS cumulative seasonal salvage is 52. * Longfin Smelt spawning has ended and LFS larvae and juveniles have been detected in the past month in the Confluence, Suisun Bay, Suisun Marsh, and downstream to Carquinez, Napa River, and San Pablo Bay. No LFS were detected in salvage in the last two weeks, and cumulative seasonal adult salvage is 26. * (updated 6/26/23) |

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. The Final WR JPE for BY2022 is 49,924.

| Species/run | Threshold | Current Status | Weekly Trend | Updated |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Green sturgeon | WY 2023 salvage = 74 | WY 2023 salvage = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 6/26/2023 |
| Natural winter-run Chinook Salmon | WY 2023 loss = 292  (50% of 1.17% of JPE) | WY 2023 loss = 109.88(37.6%) | No change expected | 6/26/2023 |
| Natural Steelhead | Dec 1 – Mar 31 =  707; (50% of 1,414),  1060.5;  (75% of 1,414)  Apr 1 – June 15 = 776 (50% of 1,552) | WY 2023 loss = 1175.36  Dec 1 – Mar 31 = 1015.16 (95.7% of the 75% threshold)  Apr 1 – June 15 = 408.24(52.6% of the 50% threshold) | Possible salvage | 6/26/2023 |
| Sacramento River Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | WY 2023 loss = 114.6 (50% of 0.12% of JPE) | WY 2023 loss = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 6/26/2023 |
| Battle Creek  Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | WY 2023 loss = 40 (1% of JPE) | WY 2023 loss = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 6/26/2023 |
| Proposed Action Hatchery yearling spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates | > 0.5% of each release group  1) 12/5/2022 group 1:  71,057 = 355.3  2) 12/23/2022 group 2:  66,735 = 333.7  3) 1/13/2023 group 3:  60,712 = 303.6 | WY 2023 loss =  1) 127.5 (35.9%)  2) 141.3 (42.3%)  3) 32.0 (10.5%) | Possible salvage | 6/26/2023 |
| 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 = Not relevant  Turbidity = Not relevant | Triggered 12/31/22, ended 01/16/23 | 1/23/2023 |
| Delta Smelt | Daily avg. Turbidity at OBI=>12 FNU | OBI Daily Average = Not relevant | Implemented 1/17/2023-2/8/2023; ripe females detected by SKT on 2/8/2023 have off-ramped Turbidity Bridge Avoidance | 4/10/2023 |
| Delta Smelt | Daily avg. Temperature at CCF > 25°C for three consecutive days | CCF daily avg. Temperature = 20.32°C | Gradual increase with warmer temperatures | Data from 6/25/2023 |

Table 2b. 10-Year Salmonid Cumulative Loss

| Species/run | Threshold | Current Status | Updated |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Natural winter-run Chinook salmon | Loss = 8,738 | Cumulative loss =  370.25 (4.2%) | 6/26/2023 |
| Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | Loss = 5,356 | Cumulative loss =  6.71 (0.13%) | 6/26/2023 |
| Natural steelhead | Loss = 6,038 (Dec 1 – Mar 31) Loss = 5,826 (Apr 1 – June 15) | Cumulative loss =  1576.46 (26.1%, Dec 1 – Mar 31)  1012.5(17.4%, Apr 1 – June 15) | 6/26/2023 |

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

\* Based on NMFS letter received on 1/20/2023, Final WR JPE for BY2022 is 49,924.

\*\* Based on the lab results received (up to sample date 4/25/2023), there was **1** 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 |  |
| Winter-run yearly loss  (8.6.1) | Nov. 1 - Jun. 30 | In effect | 584.11 (based on final JPE)\* | WR loss:  109.88\*\* | Possible salvage | 6/26/23 | Based on salvage data from 6/25/23 |
| 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 loss: 17.54 fish loss >26 | 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 | Not In effect | 5/1/23 - 5/31/23  Daily loss of **older juvenile** greater than 3.84;  Updated with genetic results as they become available. If genetics confirms the older juvenile is NOT a WR then COA will offramp. | No salvage of LAD Older Juvenile since last week | N/A | 6/5/23 | Action item ended for WY 22/23 |
| Spring-run surrogate protection  (8.6.4) | Feb. 1 - Jun. 30 | In effect | Hatchery Origin Young-of-year SR Surrogates (0.25% of total in-river FR releases for each release group from FRFH or CNFH or Nimbus Fish Hatchery)  Group 1 (FRFH) Threshold: 1,828.64 (0.25% of 731,457)  Group 2 (FRFH) Threshold:  1,821.47 (0.25% of 728,586)  Group 3 (FRFH) Threshold:  2,204.70 (0.25% of 881,880)  Group 1 (CNFH) Threshold: 1,002.24 (0.25% of 400,897)  Group 2 (CNFH) Threshold: 5,871.92 (0.25% of 2,348,768)  Group 1 (Nimbus Fish Hatchery) Threshold:  534.62 (0.25% of  213,847) | No salvage from any of these group have been observed yet at either fish facility. | Possible salvage | 6/26/23 | Based on salvage data from 6/25/23 |

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 | Off-ramped 1/17/2023 | - 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: Not relevant  FPT turbidity: Not relevant | Decreasing | 1/30/23 |  |
| Turbidity Bridge Avoidance (8.5.1) | Dec. 15 -  Apr. 1 | Off-ramped 4/1/2023; implemented 1/17/2023-2/8/2023, 2/24/2023 - 2/26/2023, 3/18/2023 - 3/31/2023 | Occurs after the Integrated Early Winter Pulse protection or February 1 (whichever comes first) until April 1  -avg. OBI turbidity>12 FNU | OBI = 15.87 FNU | Expected to decrease | 4/3/23 | Data from 4/2/23 |
| Larval and/Juvenile Delta smelt Protection (8.5.2) | ongoing | In effect, 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 = 20.59 °C  20mm #8 avg Secchi = 106 cm\* | Turbidity expected to remain stable | 6/26/23 | Data from 6/25/23  \*Data from 6/19/23-6/22/23; 11 of 12 stations sampled |

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 = 26 | No change expected | 3/20/23 | First salvage on 1/1/23. |
| OMR Mgt. for Adults (8.4.1) | Dec. 1 -Feb. 28 | Off-ramped | -Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation | N/A | N/A | 12/27/22 |  |
| 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 | 20mm #8: no LFS catch in the central and south Delta | None expected, not active due to triggering of 8.4.3 | 6/25/23 | STN #1 was in the field 6/12 - 6/15; 20mm #8 was on the water 6/19 - 6/22 |
| 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 | In effect, triggered | -Sac. R. at Rio Vista>55,000, OR  SJR at Vernalis >8,000 | Rio Vista = 5,000 – 9,000 cfs  SJ = 8,000 to 15,000 cfs | N/A | 6/26/23 |  |

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 | In effect | Salmonids:  -Greater than 95% of the winter-run and spring-run populations have migrated past Chipps Island **AND**  -Current daily average water temperature at Mossdale (MSD) exceeds 22.2°C for 7 days (can be non-consecutive) in June AND  -Current daily average water temperature at Prisoners Point (PPT) exceeds 22.2 °C for 7 (can be non-consecutive) days.   * Days exceeded: 0   Smelt:  -Current daily average water temperature at Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exceeds 25 °C for three consecutive days   * Days exceeded: 0 | Have not exceeded any days | Temperatures are expected to increase in the next week which may lead to exceeding the temperature thresholds at MSD. PPT, and CCF. | 6/12/23 | No additional comments |

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 6/27/2023) | Status |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWP regular counts, CWT reading | Delta | Active (as of 5/19) | 1 |
| SWP larval sampling | Delta | Not Active (Completed for year) | 4 |
| CVP regular counts, CWT reading | Delta | Active (using weight based estimation due to large numbers of fish) | 1 |
| CVP larval sampling | Delta | Not Active (Completed for year) | 4 |
| Smelt Larval Survey | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| LEPS | Delta | Not Active (Completed for year) | 4 |
| 20mm Survey | Delta | Active | 1 |
| Spring Kodiak Trawl | Delta | Not Active (Completed for year) | 4 |
| Fall Mid-water Trawl | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| Summer Townet Survey | Delta | Active | 1 |
| Bay Study | Delta | Active | 1 |
| DJFMP- Chipps and Sacramento Trawls | Delta | Active | 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 | 4 |
| Yuba River (Hallwood) RST | Yuba River | Active | 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 | Active | 1 |
| Feather River (upper DWR) RST | Feather River | Active | 1 |
| Feather River (lower CDFW) RST | Feather River | Active | 1 |
| SJRRP CDFW Field Monitoring | San Joaquin River | Not Active | 4 |
| SJRRP USBR Field Monitoring | San Joaquin River | Interrupted | 3 |
| Stanislaus Fish Weir | Stanislaus River | Not Active | 4 |
| American River Carcass/Redd Surveys | American River | Not Active | 4 |
| Caswell RST | Stanislaus River | Active | 1 |
| Wallace Weir | Cache Slough | Not Active (due to low flows) | 4 |
| Butte Creek RST | Butte Creek | Active | 1 |