Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 10/3/2023 – 10/9/2023

Water Project Operational Intent for Week

* Monthly Delta Outflow for October not less than 4,000 cfs; 7-day average not less than 3,000 cfs; E/I ratio not greater than 0.65; Monthly average X2 for October not greater than 80 km.

Biological Context

* Start of Water Year 2024; no ESA mandated operational constraints “triggered” yet.

Forecasted Weather

* Dry and mild weather, with modest warming from last weekend. Occasionally breezy winds, peaking Tuesday night into Wednesday morning

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: 200 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 200 cfs | * Temperature Criteria: 56°F at Igo – daily average. * Spring-run Chinook Salmon adults are spawning. Snorkel surveys indicated very low numbers (0-2 fish). * Fall-run Chinook Salmon adults are entering the creek. Spawning to commence soon. * *O. mykiss* juveniles are rearing. |
| Sacramento River | * Shasta Storage: 3.325MAF * Current Release: 6,400 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 5,500 cfs to 6,400 cfs. | * Temperature Criteria: 53.5°F at CCR - daily average. * Spring-run Chinook Salmon adults are holding and spawning * Winter-run eggs in gravel and fry emerging. Fry and pre-smolts are passing RBDD. * *O.* mykiss juveniles are rearing. * Adult green sturgeon are holding. * Green sturgeon juveniles are rearing. |
| Feather River | * Oroville Storage: 2.587 MAF * Current Release: 6,500 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 5,000 to 6,500 cfs. | * Temperature maximum criteria: 51°F +/- 4.0°F at Hatchery * *O. mykiss* juveniles are rearing. * Adult green sturgeon spawning is likely complete, but some are still holding. * Spring-run adults are migrating upstream and beginning to spawn * Adult-Spring-run carcass surveys began mid-September and will continue through December. * Fall-run are migrating upstream. |
| American River | * Folsom Storage: 664 TAF * Current Release: 3,000 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases:  2,500 to 3,000 cfs | * Temperature criteria: 67 °F at Watt Avenue, 10/7/23 62 °F at Hazel – daily average * *O. mykiss* juvenile are rearing. * Fall-run Chinook salmon carcass surveys will begin next week |
| Stanislaus River | * New Melones Storage: 1.897 MAF * Current Release: 300 cfs * Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 300 cfs to 1,500 cfs; Fall Pulse flow through early November | * *O. mykiss* juveniles are rearing. * Adult *O. mykiss* present * Fall-run Chinook have begun migrating upstream * Adult fall-run Chinook salmon preliminary carcass surveys are seeing a few carcasses. Official carcass survey will begin this week |
| Delta | * Freeport: 13,000 to 17,000 cfs * Vernalis: 1,500 to 2,500 cfs * Delta Outflow index: 8,000 to 9,000 cfs * Combined Exports: 6,500 to 10,200 cfs * JPP: Current 3,500 cfs, Range from 3,500 cfs to 4,200 cfs * CCF: Current 6,000 cfs,  Range 3,000 cfs to 6,000 cfs * Expected Daily OMR Index Values: -7,000 cfs to   -9,000 cfs   * DCC Gates: Closed on 10/2, Opening 10/6 for weekend * Tides: Transitioning from Spring to Neap; Last-Quarter Moon 10/6 | * *X2 = 79 km* * *SMSCG – Flashboards installed 8/14, gates continue in tidal operation beginning 8/15* |

Table 2a-b: WY 2024 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 2024 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. \* TBD – no draft JPE produced, ITL and performance thresholds are TBD currently

| Species/run | Threshold | Current Status | Weekly Trend | Updated |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Green sturgeon | WY 2024 salvage = 74 | WY 2024 salvage = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 10/2/2023 |
| Natural winter-run Chinook Salmon | WY 2024 loss = TBD\*  (50% of 1.17% of JPE) | WY 2024 loss = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 10/2/2023 |
| Natural Steelhead | Dec 1 – Mar 31 =  707; (50% of 1,414)  Apr 1 – June 15 = 776 (50% of 1,552) | WY 2024 loss = 0  Dec 1 – Mar 31 = 0 (0% of the 50% threshold)  Apr 1 – June 15 = 0(0% of the 50% threshold) | No change expected | 10/2/2023 |
| Sacramento River Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | WY 2024 loss = TBD\* (50% of 0.12% of JPE) | WY 2024 loss = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 10/2/2023 |
| Battle Creek  Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | WY 2024 loss = TBD\* (1% of JPE) | WY 2024 loss = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 10/2/2023 |
| Proposed Action Hatchery yearling spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates | > 0.5% of each release group | WY 2024 loss = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 10/2/2023 |
| 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 | Not relevant | 10/2/2023 |
| Delta Smelt | Daily avg. Turbidity at OBI=>12 FNU | OBI Daily Average = Not relevant | Not relevant | 10/2/2023 |
| Delta Smelt | Daily avg. Temperature at CCF > 25°C for three consecutive days | CCF daily avg. Temperature = Not relevant | Not relevant | 10/2/2023 |

Table 2b. 10-Year Salmonid Cumulative Loss

| Species/run | Threshold | Current Status | Updated |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Natural winter-run Chinook salmon | Loss = 8,738 | Cumulative loss =  368.95 (4.2%) | 10/2/2023 |
| Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | Loss = 5,356 | Cumulative loss =  6.71 (0.13%) | 10/2/2023 |
| 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)  976.75(16.8%, Apr 1 – June 15) | 10/2/2023 |

Table 3a: Relevant Water Year 2024 Fish Criteria and Status for Listed Fish under the SWP Long-Term Incidental Take Permit.

Table 3a: Chinook Salmon

| 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 | 9/29/23 |  |
| Winter-run yearly loss  (8.6.1) | Nov. 1 - Jun. 30 | Not in effect | TBD based on WY 2023 JPE) | N/A | N/A | 9/29/23 |  |
| Winter-run discrete daily loss (8.6.2) | Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 | Not in effect | 11/1-11/30: loss of 6/day unclipped older juv. Winter-run  12/1-12/31: loss of 26/day unclipped older juv. Winter-run |  | N/A | 9/29/23 |  |
| Mid and late season Winter-run daily loss threshold (8.6.3) | Jan 1 – May 31 | Not In effect | TBD | N/A | N/A | 9/29/23 |  |
| Spring-run surrogate protection  (8.6.4) | Feb. 1 - Jun. 30 | Not in effect | TBD |  | N/A | 9/29/23 |  |

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 10/3/2023) | Status |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWP regular counts, CWT reading | Delta | Active | 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 | Not Active | 4 |
| LEPS | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| 20mm Survey | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| Fall Mid-water Trawl | Delta | Active | 1 |
| Summer Townet Survey | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| 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 | Not 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 | Not Active | 4 |
| 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 | 4 |
| Butte Creek RST/Diversion Trap | Butte Creek | Not Active/Active | 4/1 |

\*Data has not been received yet