Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 2/27/2024 – 3/5/2024

Water Project Operational Intent for Week

* Effective 2/7 operations will be limited to a 7-day average OMRI flow no more negative than -3,500 cfs per the 2023 IOP/ITP COA 8.5.2. until the average measured Secchi depth, as defined in the IOP and ITP, is greater than 1 meter; X2 at Chipps for 28 days in February; E/I <= 0.35.
* Proposed Action- Water project operations are currently limited to a 14-day average OMRI of no more negative than –2,500 cfs based on the 75% loss threshold for Steelhead being exceeded.
* Reclamation will be in close coordination with other agencies to resolve the operational plan in response to the 100% exceedance for Steelhead

Forecasted Weather

* A weak system today brings some showers and snow into the Central Valley. A more active pattern begins late in the week through this weekend. Precipitation, snow, gusty winds and abnormally cold temperatures near freezing with morning frost are forecasted to return with this system.

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 – 700 cfs | * Spring-run Chinook salmon fry rearing. * Fall-run Chinook salmon eggs are incubating and hatching. Juveniles are emerging and rearing. * Late fall-run Chinook Salmon adults are spawning and eggs are incubating. * Adult *O. mykiss* are migrating and spawning. Their eggs are incubating and juveniles are rearing.   (*Updated 2/5/2024*) |
| Sacramento River | * Shasta Storage: 3.897 MAF * Current Release: 35,000 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 20,000 cfs to 35,000 cfs for flood management. | * Late fall-run Chinook adults are continuing their spawning but we are past the peak period. * Late-fall run Chinook eggs/alevins are currently incubating/residing in the gravel. * Fall-run redds are mostly emerged. Fry are very actively migrating downstream. * Adult winter-run are arriving in the upper river and holding.   *(Updated 2/12/2024)* |
| Feather River | * Oroville Storage: 2.973 MAF * Current Release: 12,000 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 8,000 cfs to 20,000 cfs for flood management. | * Fall-run Chinook salmon adult spawning has ended. Eggs are incubating in gravel. Fry are beginning to emerge and migrate downstream. * *O. mykiss* juveniles are rearing.  Adults are spawning and eggs are incubating in gravel. * Adult green sturgeon are still holding in the LFC near Fish Barrier Dam. * Spring-run Chinook salmon adult spawning has ended.  Fry are emerging and migrating downstream.   (*Updated 2/27/2024*) |
| American River | * Folsom Storage: 617 TAF * Current Release: 6,000 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases:  6,000 cfs to 8,000 cfs for flood management | * *O. mykiss* juveniles are rearing. * Adult fall-run Chinook salmon spawning has ended. * Eggs are incubating in gravel. * Fry are beginning to emerge and migrate downstream. * O. *mykiss* – Adults present   (*Updated 1/30/2024*) |
| Stanislaus River | * New Melones Storage: 1.981 MAF * Current Release: 1,000 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1,000 – 3,000 cfs for flood management | * *O. mykiss* - Adult and juveniles present * Fall-run Chinook salmon spawning has ended. * Eggs are incubating in gravel. Fry are beginning to emerge and migrate downstream.   (*Updated 1/29/2024*) |
| Delta | * Freeport: 50,000 to 70,000 cfs * Vernalis: 6,000 to 10,000 cfs * Delta Outflow index: 70,000 to 150,000 cfs * Combined Exports: 4,600 to 7,700 cfs * JPP: Current 4,200 cfs, Range 3,600 cfs to 4,200 cfs * CCF: Current 2,400 cfs, Range 1,000 cfs to 3,500 cfs * Expected Daily OMR Index Values: -2,000 cfs to   -2,500 cfs   * DCC Gates: Closed on 11/27 for season * X2 < 56 km * Tides: Transitioning from Spring to Neap; Last Quarter Moon on 3/3 | * Juvenile and adult O. mykiss present. * Juvenile Chinook Salmon present. * Adult winter-run Chinook Salmon are present. * Adult and juvenile Green Sturgeon present * Delta Smelt adults have been detected in the lower Sacramento River, Suisun Marsh, Western Delta, lower San Joaquin River, Liberty Island, and the South Delta since 2/6. DS population scale migration is likely completed, and water temperatures are suitable for spawning. * Longfin Smelt sub-adults and adults have been detected in Suisun Marsh and Bay, Honker and Grizzly bays, San Pablo Bay, Chipps Island, the Confluence, and the Lower Sacramento River. Longfin Smelt larvae have been detected in the Napa River, Carquinez Strait, San Pablo Bay, Suisun Bay and Marsh, the Confluence, lower Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, and the Central and South Delta. LFS population scale migration and spawning are ongoing.   (*Updated 2/27/2024*) |

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. The Final WR JPE for BY 2023 is 234,896. The ITL and performance thresholds are TBD.

| Species/run | Threshold | Current Status | Weekly Trend | Updated |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Green sturgeon | WY 2024 salvage = 74 | WY 2024 salvage = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 2/26/2024 |
| Natural winter-run Chinook Salmon | WY 2024 loss = 2061  (75% of 1.17% of JPE) | WY 2024 loss =  1443.47 (70.03%)  50% threshold exceeded 2/25/2024 | Increasing | 2/26/2024 |
| Natural Steelhead | Dec 1 – Mar 31 =  1414; (100% of 1,414)  Apr 1 – June 15 = 776 (50% of 1,552) | WY 2024 loss = 1,778  Dec 1 – Mar 31 = 1,778  75% threshold exceeded 2/22/24 and 100% threshold loss exceeded on 2/23/24  50% threshold exceeded 2/11/2024  Apr 1 – June 15 = 0 (0% of the 50% threshold) | Increasing | 2/27/2024 |
| Sacramento River Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | WY 2024 loss = 140.93 (50% of 0.12% of JPE) | WY 2024 loss = 0 (0%) | Increasing | 2/27/2024 |
| Battle Creek  Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | WY 2024 loss = 234.90 (1% of JPE) | WY 2024 loss = 0 (0%) | No change expected | 2/27/2024 |
| Proposed Action Hatchery yearling spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates | > 0.5% of each release group  1) 12/22/2023 group 1:  60,764 =   303.82  2) 12/29/2023 group 2:  71,049 = 355.25  3) 1/11/2024 group 3:  67,018 = 335.09 | WY 2024 loss =  1) 36.84 (12.12%)  2) 31.75 (8.94%)  3) 75.69 (22.6%) | Increasing | 2/27/2024 |
| Delta Smelt | After Dec. 1:  Running 3-day avg. flows at Freeport >25,000 cfs AND  Running 3-day avg. turbidity at Freeport =>50 FNU | Offramped. Implemented 1/23/2024-2/5/2024.  Flow = N/A;  Turbidity = N/A | Not relevant | 2/12/2024 |
| Delta Smelt | Daily avg. Turbidity at OBI=>12 FNU | In effect. Not triggered.   OBI Daily Average = 6.0 FNU | Remaining stable or increasing | 2/20/2024 |
| Delta Smelt | Daily avg. Temperature at CCF > 25°C for three consecutive days | Not in effect.  CCF (CLC CDEC station) daily avg. Temperature = N/A | Not relevant | 2/12/2024 |

Table 2b. 10-Year Salmonid Cumulative Loss

| Species/run | Threshold | Current Status | Updated |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Natural winter-run Chinook salmon | Loss = 8,738 | Cumulative loss =  1813.72 (20.76%) | 2/26/2024 |
| Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | Loss = 5,356 | Cumulative loss =  6.71 (0.13%) | 2/26/2024 |
| Natural steelhead | Loss = 6,038 (Dec 1 – Mar 31) Loss = 5,826 (Apr 1 – June 15) | Cumulative loss =  3355.11 (55.6%, Dec 1 – Mar 31)  1012.50 (17.4%, Apr 1 – June 15) | 2/26/2024 |

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)* | **In effect** | *≥* 5% of the  Winter-run or Spring-run population in  Delta | N/A | N/A | 2/26/2024 | In effect as of January 1. |
| **Winter-run yearly loss**  **(8.6.1)** | Nov. 1 - Jun. 30 | **In effect** | 2,748.28 (1.17% of Natural LAD WR of Final JPE)  232.30 (0.12% of LSNFH WR of Final JPE) | Loss of total LAD Winter-run = 1374.27 (50.00% of Natural LAD WR threshold) | Salvage is likely to occur in the upcoming week | 2/26/24 | Natural-origin LAD winter-run Chinook salmon (WR) were observed in salvage the previous week. |
| Winter-run discrete daily loss (8.6.2) | Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 | Not in effect | 26 older juvenile/day | Max Older Juvenile discrete daily loss observed last week = N/A | N/A | 1/22/2024 | N/A |
| **Mid and late season Winter-run daily loss threshold (8.6.3)** | Jan 1 – May 31 | **In effect** | 2/1-2/29: loss of 5.43 fish /day of natural-origin LAD older juvenile  (Winter-run, Yearling fall-run, and Late fall-run). Updated with genetic results as they become available. If genetics confirms that the older juvenile is NOT a WR then that fish will not count towards the threshold.  Upcoming:  3/1-3/31: loss of 8.74 fish /day of natural-origin LAD older juvenile | Max daily Loss of older juvenile Chinook occurred on 2/23 with loss of 316.59. | Salvage of older juveniles is likely in the upcoming week. | 2/26/2024 | 4 genetically confirmed WR were observed in salvage for the season. |
| Spring-run surrogate protection  (8.6.4) | Feb. 1 - Jun. 30 | Not in effect | TBD | N/A | N/A | 9/29/23 | Will be updated when in effect |

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 | - three-day Freeport daily flow running avg>= 25,000 AND    [three-day Freeport turbidity running avg >=50 FNU OR Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation] | Not relevant | Not relevant | 2/12/24 | N/A |
| Turbidity Bridge Avoidance (8.5.1) | Dec. 15 -  Apr. 1 | In effect; not triggered | Occurs after the Integrated Early Winter Pulse protection or February 1 whichever comes first until April 1  -avg. OBI turbidity>12 FNU | OBI daily average = 5.4 FNU | Remaining stable or increasing | 2/25/24 | N/A |
| Larval and/Juvenile Delta smelt Protection (8.5.2) | Nov. 1 – Jun. 30 | Triggered 2/5/2024, also 2/21/2024 | - If 5-day cum. salvage of juv.DS>= 1 [average 3-yr FMWT 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= 12.5 °C  Average Secchi Depth = 83cm (as of 2/21) |  | 2/25/24 | N/A |

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] = 46 fish (Sept.-Dec. Index) OR  -Smelt Monitoring Team determines high likelihood of LFS movement into high-risk areas | Cumulative salvage = 0 | N/A | 12/26/23 | N/A |
| OMR Mgt. for Adults (8.4.1) | Onset of OMR mgmt -Feb. 28 | Off-ramped | -Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation | N/A | N/A | 12/19/23 | N/A |
| Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection (8.4.2) | Jan 1 – Jun 30 | Not triggered by SLS 4 | -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 4 detected 2 larvae at 809 on 2/20/24. | N/A | 2/13/24 | N/A |
| 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 2/6/2024 | -Sac. R. at Rio Vista>55,000, OR    SJR at Vernalis >8,000 | Rio Vista = 70,000 – 130,000 – cfs  SJ = 6,000 – 10,000 cfs | Flows are decreasing | 2/26/24 | Off-ramps 8.4.2 until Sac flows at Rio Vista <40,000 cfs |

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 2/26/2024) | Status |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWP regular counts, CWT reading | Delta | Active | 1 |
| SWP larval sampling | Delta | Not Active (Will begin 3/11) | 4 |
| CVP regular counts, CWT reading | Delta | Active | 1 |
| CVP larval sampling | Delta | Active | 1 |
| Smelt Larval Survey | Delta | Active | 1 |
| LEPS | Delta | Active | 1 |
| 20mm Survey | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| 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 | 1 |
| DJFMP- Seines | Delta | Active | 1 |
| EDSM | Delta | Active | 1 |
| Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) | Delta | Active | 1 |
| Mossdale Trawl | 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 |
| Yuba River (Hallwood) RST | Yuba River | Active | 1 |
| Redd dewatering and stranding surveys | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Sacramento Carcass and Redd Surveys (Late fall-run Chinook salmon) | 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 |
| Lower American River at Watt Ave RST | American River | Not Active (as of 2/18 due to heavy debris) | 4 |
| SJRRP CDFW Field Monitoring | San Joaquin River | Active | 1 |
| SJRRP USBR Field Monitoring | San Joaquin River | Active | 1 |
| Stanislaus Fish Weir | Stanislaus River | Active | 1 |
| American River Carcass/Redd Surveys (Fall-run Chinook salmon) | American River | Not Active | 4 |
| Stanislaus Carcass Survey (Steelhead) | Stanislaus River | Active | 1 |
| Caswell RST | Stanislaus River | Active | 1 |
| Wallace Weir | Cache Slough | Active | 1 |
| Butte Creek RST/Diversion Trap | Butte Creek | Active | 1 |