

CALFED Operations Group  
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**Winter-run chinook salmon:** Loss of juvenile chinook salmon in the winter-run size length has declined dramatically since the peak in mid-March and remains low in April. The combined total loss since December at the Delta Fish Salvage Facilities is now 19,903 fish. The NMFS and the CALFED-EWA Science Review Team have begun a review to exam the reasons why this occurred.

**Steelhead and Spring-run Chinook:** Although daily salvage of steelhead has been low in April, the cumulative combined total since December is between 4,000 and 5,500 (CDFG preliminary data). This is above the incidental take limit specified in the interim biological opinion and above the historical average for the fish facilities. Exports were reduced from April 5 - 9 (Fish Action #7) with EWA water, since the authorized take level had been exceeded. This action also benefitted spring run and fall-run young-of-the-year chinook, which were showing up in large numbers at that time.

The Knights Landing and Sacramento Catch Index have reported increases in catch of juvenile salmon in the 70-90 mm range. GCID also reported high numbers of chinook in this range. Most of these fish are fall run young-of-the-year chinook that overlap the tail end of the spring run size range. It is extremely difficult to tell them apart at this time of year. Coleman National Fish Hatchery is also releasing approximately 12 million fall run chinook in this size range this month. Coleman late-fall surrogates for spring-run emigration remain under the Yellow Light levels.

The OCAP interim biological opinion for spring-run chinook and Central Valley steelhead is still in Long Beach being reviewed. A final draft is due out next week.