

CALFED Operations Group  
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**Winter-run chinook salmon:** Loss of juvenile chinook salmon in the winter-run size length exceeded the Red Light Limit of 7,404 on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The use of all available EWA assets to curtail pumping was exhausted by March 3/11. These curtailments did succeed in reducing the level of take to some degree. Three other operational alternatives were recommended by the Data Analysis Team to the Water Operations Management Team without success due to the limited flexibility of the projects. As of 3/25 the cumulative total loss of winter-run size chinook has reached 19,468 and continues to rise, but the density of fish/AF has declined significantly since 3/16. The Bureau has reinitiated consultation with NMFS on the Winter-run biological opinion. Biologists have no explanation for the unprecedented high losses that have occurred to date at the pumps, but are committed to assessing the reasons why. Losses of winter-run length salmon are expected to decline during the next two weeks as exports are reduced.

**Steelhead and Spring-run Chinook:** The Knights Landing and Sacramento Catch Index have dropped to less than five this week. GCID observed catch is low. Export reductions to decrease losses of winter-run size salmon have also helped to decrease losses of juvenile spring-run chinook and steelhead. Coleman Hatchery late-fall surrogates for spring-run emigration remain under the Yellow Light levels.

Steelhead salvage at the Delta Fish Facilities increased significantly as well, 213 un-clipped salvaged on 3/11 (40-50 non-clipped daily average) with 3,344 being the cumulative un-clipped total since December 1<sup>st</sup>. Last year's incidental take level for non-clipped steelhead was 3,400.

A revised draft CVP/SWP - OCAP interim biological opinion for spring-run chinook and Central Valley was completed by March 9<sup>th</sup> with comments provided by DWR, BOR and CDFG. This opinion is currently being reviewed in our Long Beach Regional Headquarters. Work continues on a long-term CVP/SWP-OCAP opinion with a framework due to the Water Operations Management Team by the end of April.