

It's been a busy and discouraging ten days for those interested in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as either an ecosystem or a water source.

- The [San Francisco Chronicle reported](#) that the return of fall chinook salmon to the Sacramento River hit a record low last year.
- The Pacific Fishery Management Council released a [gloomy preseason estimate](#) of 2009 stock abundance, leading to speculation that there might again be no commercial ocean salmon fishing this year.
- The [Bureau of Reclamation forecast](#) that agricultural contractors would get no water from the Central Valley Project this year. And despite recent rains, the Governor on Friday [declared a statewide drought emergency](#), calling on all residents to reduce water use by 20%.
- [Judge Wanger agreed](#) to give the National Marine Fisheries Service another 3 months to finalize its biological opinion on operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. (Hat tip: [Aquaforia](#)) When finished, the BiOp is expected to conclude that project operations jeopardize not only salmon but also, [as Rick explained here](#), the Puget Sound orca population.
- The State Water Resources Control Board [declined to waive](#) Delta water quality standards as requested by the Bureau of Reclamation and Department of Water Resources. Ever fearless, the Board decided that recent rains had made a waiver unnecessary, and declined to punish the water agencies for having violated the standards while their petition was considered.
- The Coalition for a Sustainable Delta, the same group of farmers that brought you the [striped bass lawsuit](#) against the Department of Fish and Game, added yet another layer to Delta litigation, [suing Stockton](#) over urban runoff and sewage overflows that are allegedly harming the Delta. (Hat tip: [Aquaforia](#))