

# Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Conference call: 12/1/2020 at 9:00 a.m.

**Objective:** Provide information to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP) on salmonids and green sturgeon. Meeting notes will be posted to [Reclamation's Salmon Monitoring Team](#) webpage. Meeting participants include representatives from: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), DWR, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Reclamation, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

## Agenda Items:

1. Introductions
2. Relevant Actions and Triggers
3. Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations
4. Fish Abundance and Distribution
5. Fish Exposure and Behavioural Cues, Current Conditions, Sensitivity to Operational Actions
6. Other Topics
7. Additional Considerations for WOMT
8. Next SaMT Meeting

### Agenda Item 2. Relevant Actions and Triggers

#### *Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate Operations*

The DCC gates were closed on 12/1/2020 and expected to remain closed through 5/20/2021 per the Proposed Action (PA). A positive impact of the DCC gate closure is the prevention of entrainment through the DCC route of juvenile CCV steelhead, winter-run Chinook salmon, and young of year (YOY) spring-run Chinook salmon from the Sacramento River basin into the Delta interior.

#### *Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Daily Loss Threshold*

From 12/1-12/31/2020, DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval 8.6.2 of the ITP. The ITP Daily Discrete Loss Threshold for December is 26 older juvenile Chinook salmon. If the threshold is exceeded, the required response is to reduce SWP

exports by its proportional share according to the Coordinated Operation Agreement (COA) to reach an OMR of -5,000 cfs for five consecutive days.

### Agenda Item 3. Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations

#### *Project Operations*

SaMT reviewed and updated the Outlook document. The updated Outlook document will be distributed to the SaMT via email by close of business (COB) 12/3/2020.

Action item: Randi Field, Reclamation, will confirm if the current temperature compliance target on the American River at Hazel Avenue applies to the month of December and will update the Outlook document as necessary.

### Agenda Item 4. Fish Abundance and Distribution

#### *Fish Monitoring: Salvage*

Salvage and loss of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species are reported in the Outlook and Assessment documents. No ESA listed species were salvaged during this past week at either fish collection facility. No outages or reductions in fish salvage counts were reported for this past week.

#### *SaMT Estimates of Fish Distribution*

SaMT estimates of the current distribution of listed Chinook salmon and CCV steelhead, as a percentage of the population, are based on recent monitoring data and historical migration timing patterns. These estimates are reported in the final Assessment.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Yet to Enter Delta (Upstream of Knights Landing)</b>	<b>In the Delta</b>	<b>Exited the Delta (Past Chipps Island)</b>
<i>Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon</i>	Current: 96-99% Last week: 97-99%	Current: 1-4% Last week: 1-3%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
<i>YOY spring-run Chinook salmon</i>	Current: 99-100% Last week: 99-100%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-1%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
<i>YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon</i>	Current: N/A Last week: N/A	Current: N/A Last week: N/A	Current: N/A Last week: N/A
<i>Natural origin steelhead</i>	Current: 99-100% Last week: 99-100%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-1%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%

#### *Fish Monitoring Disruptions due to COVID-19*

No new disruptions were noted.

### Agenda Item 5. Fish Exposure and Behavioral Cues, Current Conditions, Sensitivity to Operational Actions

SaMT reviewed and updated the Assessment document. The updated Assessment will be distributed to the SaMT via email by COB 12/3/2020.

### *ITP Risk Assessment*

SaMT reviewed and updated the ITP Risk Assessment document. The updated draft ITP Assessment will be distributed via email by COB 12/2/2020 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB 12/3/2020. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday, 12/4/2020.

### **Agenda Item 6. Other Topics**

ICF Entrainment Tool Presentation – Suzanne Manugian inquired if SaMT members would be interested in participating in a training outside of the normal SaMT weekly call. Contact her if interested at [smanugian@usbr.gov](mailto:smanugian@usbr.gov)

### **Agenda Item 7. Additional Considerations for WOMT**

SaMT had no recommendations to WOMT to change operations. However, they re-iterated concerns noted in the prior SaMT weekly meeting (11/24/2020) about winter-run survival to the Delta due to the thiamine vitamin deficiency issue, and how this would factor into the development of the 2021 winter-run Chinook salmon juvenile production estimate (JPE) calculations for brood year 2020. SaMT members identified this as an important issue for WOMT to consider as the JPE serves as the basis for the calculation of several take thresholds regulating operations of the SWP and CVP.

### **Agenda Item 8.**

Next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 12/8/2020 at 9 a.m.