

# Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

**Conference call: 12/22/2020 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. Roll Call
2. Updates on Water Operations and Biological Conditions
3. Open Discussion on species status
4. Live-edit Assessments (Proposed Action Assessment and ITP Risk Assessment)
5. Additional Considerations/Other Topics
6. Next Meeting

### Agenda Item 2. Updates on Water Operations and Biological Conditions Relevant Actions and Triggers

Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate operations: The DCC gates were closed on 12/1/20 and are expected to remain closed through mid-May 2021. A positive impact of the DCC gate closure is to prevent entrainment through the DCC route of any juvenile CCV steelhead, juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon, and young-of-year (YOY) or yearling spring-run Chinook salmon into the Delta interior from the Sacramento River Basin.

Planned construction efforts on the DCC gates are ongoing. No updates were reported on the call.

Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Daily Loss Threshold: From 12/1/2020-12/31/2020, 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), that would be required to reach an OMR of -5,000 cfs for five consecutive days.

#### *Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current 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) 12/28/2020.

It was noted that precipitation is likely to occur later this week and into early next week, 12/25/2020 - 12/28/2020.

*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 of the Delta fish collection facilities. No outages or reductions in fish salvage counts were reported for this past week (12/14/2020 - 12/20/2020).

Fish Monitoring Gear Efficiency/Disruptions: COVID-19 or air quality impacts.

<b>Monitoring Survey</b>	<b>Status (as of 12/22/20)</b>
Delta	
SWP regular counts, CWT reading, and larval sampling	Ongoing
CVP regular counts, CWT reading, and larval sampling	Ongoing
Smelt Larval Survey	Began 12/14 (south and central Delta )
20mm Survey	Begins in March
Spring Kodiak Trawl	Begins 1/4/2021
Bay Study	Only sampled 2 days in Dec.
DJFMP- Chipps and Sacramento Trawls	Chipps Island trawl cancelled this week due to COVID concerns, will resume 12/27/20; Sacramento Trawls ongoing, sampling 5 days a week.
DJFMP- Seines	Suspended with the exception of the seine locations that inform the SCI
EDSM	Ongoing
EMP	December surveys canceled
Mossdale	Next sampling date scheduled TBD
USGS Flow monitoring	Continuous monitoring continues
Sacramento River	
Red Bluff Diversion Dam screw trap	Ongoing
Knights Landing screw trap	Ongoing through modified staffing
Tisdale screw trap	Ongoing through modified staffing
Redd dewatering and stranding surveys	Ongoing
Sacramento Carcass and Redd Surveys	Continuing
San Joaquin River	
SJRRP CDFW Field Monitoring	Suspended indefinitely
SJRRP USFWS and USBR Field Monitoring	Since 8/31

*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. This document is available on the [Reclamation's Salmon Monitoring Team](#) webpage.

<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>
YOY winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: 75-95% Last week: 93-97%	Current: 5-25% Last week: 3-7%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 95-97% Last week: 97-99%	Current: 3-5% Last week: 1-3%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: N/A Last week: N/A	Current: N/A Last week: N/A	Current: N/A Last week: N/A
Natural origin steelhead	Current: 97-98% Last week: 98-99%	Current: 2-3% Last week: 1-2%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%

The agencies in the SaMT increased and broadened the distribution estimate this week for YOY winter-run Chinook salmon in the Delta from 3-7% last week to 5-25% this week because of historic information and to capture uncertainty surrounding population dynamics: lack of information due to lack of detections in Delta monitoring stations, dry conditions, low turbidity, thiamine deficiency, etc.

### **Agenda Item 3. Open Discussion on Species Status**

No discussion items were noted on the call.

### **Agenda Item 4. Live edit Assessments**

#### *Proposed Action Assessment*

SaMT reviewed and updated the Assessment document. The updated Assessment will be distributed to the SaMT via email by COB 12/24/2020. The final assessment will be posted to the [Reclamation's Salmon Monitoring Team](#) webpage.

#### *IIP Risk Assessment*

SaMT reviewed and updated the IIP Risk Assessment document. The updated draft IIP Assessment will be distributed via email by COB 12/23/2020 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB 12/24/2020. The IIP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Monday, 12/28/2020 and can be found at [CDFW's Water Project Operations webpage](#).

### **Agenda Item 5. Additional Considerations/Other Topics**

1. No additional considerations for WOMT were noted.
2. A presentation on the ICF Entrainment Tool is scheduled for Wednesday, 12/23/20 at 10am. All SaMT members should have received an invitation to participate via email. Contact Rafi Silberblatt or Suzanne Manugian for more information.
3. Feedback on SaMT meeting notes will be due by COB Monday, 12/28/20 due to federal holidays.
4. The final version of the IIP Risk Assessment will be distributed by COB Monday, 12/28/20 due to federal holidays.
5. Reclamation received an update indicating that late fall-run fish are tagged and being held at Coleman National Fish Hatchery and are likely to be released later this week. Elissa Buttermore to follow-up.

### **Agenda Item 6.**

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 12/29/20, at 9 a.m.