

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Conference call: 10/5/2021 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. Final versions of the Meeting Notes, Proposed Action Assessment, and Fish and Water Operations Outlook 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

DCC gate operations are in effect as of 10/1/21. DCC gates are currently open during the weekend and closed Monday morning through Friday morning. See Outlook document for additional operational details and PA Assessment for DCC gate recommendations and potential impacts to salmonids.

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) 10/5/21.

Bryant Giorgi, DWR, noted that water quality issues associated with salinity may arise in the future if conditions don't improve. An aquatic weed treatment will occur within Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) the first week of November, with the CCF radial gates closing on 10/31/21, and herbicide applied on 11/1/21. Banks Pumping Plant and the Skinner Delta Fish Protection fish salvage facility will be offline during weed management actions which is anticipated to last approximately 4 days.

The first of three Mokelumne River pulse flow events to reduce fall-run Chinook straying from this basin are expected to begin 10/5/21. As per the PA, Reclamation is required to close the DCC within 48 hours of the initiation of a pulse flow event. Details can be found in Attachment A of the weekly PA Assessment.

The SaMT discussed Fish Monitoring Gear Efficiency/Disruptions as addressed within the Operations Outlook and updated accordingly.

SaMT Estimates of Fish Distribution

SaMT estimates of the current distribution of listed Chinook salmon and CCV steelhead, as a percentage of each population, are based on recent monitoring data and historical migration timing patterns. These estimates are reported in the final Assessment document, available on [Reclamation’s Salmon Monitoring Team](#) webpage.

Location	Yet to Enter Delta	In the Delta	Exited the Delta
Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: 99-100% Last week: NA	Current: 0-1% Last week: NA	Current: 0% Last week: NA
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: NA Last week: NA	Current: NA Last week: NA	Current: NA Last week: NA
YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon ¹	Current: NA Last week: NA	Current: NA Last week: NA	Current: NA Last week: NA
Natural origin steelhead	Current: 100% Last week: NA	Current: 0% Last week: NA	Current: 0% Last week: NA

Agenda Item 3. Open Discussion on Species Status

In an effort to decrease staff workload, NMFS participants who were previously distributing a combined fish distribution table will cease weekly distribution. In an effort to increase transparency in data-sharing, a document compiling information on data sources for WY 2022 was distributed. SaMT participants were asked to provide feedback throughout the season on data distribution and data delivery.

During WY 2022 there is a change of staff from several agencies: Jeff Stuart, NMFS, noted that Kristin Begun will be transitioning into the primary NMFS representative role by the end of this year. Ken Kundargi, CDFW, noted that Crystal Rigby will be transitioning into the primary CDFW role in the coming year. Suzanne Manugian, Reclamation, noted that she is assuming the primary Reclamation role for Reclamation with participation from Brian Maharadja and Nick Bertrand.

Agenda Item 4. Live edit Assessments

Proposed Action Assessment

SaMT reviewed and updated the PA Assessment document. The updated PA Assessment will be distributed to the SaMT via email by COB 10/5/21. The final assessment will be posted to [Reclamation’s Salmon Monitoring Team](#) webpage.

IITP Risk Assessment

Ken Kundargi noted that CDFW will not produce an IITP Risk Assessment until the last week of October. The IITP Risk Assessment’s format will be refined from WY 2021 versions.

¹ Estimation of YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook Salmon distribution is complicated by multiple releases over a prolonged period of time .

Agenda Item 5. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

No additional considerations for WOMT were noted.

Agenda Item 6.

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 10/12/21, at 9 a.m.