

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Conference call: 10/12/2021 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

Rafi Silberblatt noted that SaMT has been asked to incorporate operational and fish condition-related updates from the Watershed Teams into the Outlook document, when applicable.

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 details and Proposed Action (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) 10/12/21.

Bryant Giorgi, DWR, noted that the first of three Mokelumne River pulse flow events to reduce fall-run Chinook straying occurred but flows are now back down to 150 cfs. Salinity in the Central Delta is elevated but relatively stable and will be closely monitored with adjustments made as necessary.

Ken Kundargi, CDFW, asked how salinity issues will be managed when the current transfer from Shasta reservoir concludes in mid-November. Randi Field, Reclamation, indicated that this is a topic of ongoing discussion and may require that upstream flows remain elevated somewhat longer.

Suzanne Manugian, Reclamation, noted that the level of detail included within the Environmental and Fish Conditions column of the first table in the Outlook document has been streamlined per the Guidance Document. More detailed information will remain within the 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: 99-100%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-1%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
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: 100%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%

Agenda Item 3. Open Discussion on Species Status

No topics were noted.

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 10/12/21. 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.

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, 10/19/21, at 9 a.m.

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