

# Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

**Conference call: 10/19/2021 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

The weekly Operations Outlook will be distributed weekly by end-of-day Monday.

## 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 from Friday morning to Monday morning and closed the remainder of the week. See Outlook document for additional details and Proposed Action (PA) Assessment for DCC gate recommendations and potential impacts to salmonids. The second Mokelumne River pulse flow will occur on 10/18/21.

A pending storm event may impact flow planning in the coming week. If it improves water quality, exports may be increased to ensure utilization of all transfer water. Currently, the Delta is operating to water quality concerns, particularly elevated EC at Jersey Point.

NMFS noted that Mill Creek mean daily flow exceeded 95 cfs once over the past week and Deer creek mean daily flow did not exceed 95 cfs. These higher flows are environmental indicators used for determining the initiation of yearling spring-run Chinook salmon emigration from the tributaries. A discrepancy was noted between the Mill Creek mean daily flow number as reported on CDEC versus on SacPAS. Research on calculations of data will occur. The potential for increased rainfall on the burned areas from the Dixie Fire in the headwaters of the Mill and Deer creek drainages may cause toxic runoff to enter stream channels, impacting both Deer and Mill creeks.

*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) 10/19/21.

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.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Yet to Enter Delta</b>	<b>In the Delta</b>	<b>Exited the Delta</b>
Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: 98-100% Last week: 99-100%	Current: 0-2% 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 <sup>1</sup>	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 10/19/21. 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, 10/26/21, at 9 a.m.

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