

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Conference call: 10/27/2020 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 potential effects from Delta operations of the CVP and the 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 Review

Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate Operations

From October 1 to November 30 Reclamation proposes to operate the DCC gates consistent with past operations. See Reclamation's Proposed Action (PA), Section 4.10.5.3 (page 4-55).

DCC gates will close at 1600 hours on October 28 and open at 1000 hours on October 31 to reduce straying of Mokelumne River fall-run Chinook salmon, attracted by lower Mokelumne River pulse flows, into the Sacramento River through the DCC. Any juvenile listed salmonid, i.e., CCV steelhead, CV spring-run Chinook salmon and Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, migrating past the DCC during the closure would benefit from the closure.

An inspection of DCC gates will occur from October 26-28.

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

Project Operations

SaMT reviewed and updated the Outlook document.

Agenda Item 4. Fish Abundance and Distribution

Salvage

Salvage and loss of ESA-list species are reported in the outlook and assessment documents. No listed species were salvaged this past week.

SaMT Estimates of Fish Distribution

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

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

Observation of early spring-run chinook salmon might actually be late emerging winter-run based on the size of observed fish. It is difficult to say, but based strictly on the length-at-date (LAD) criteria we are using for run classification, they are classified as spring-run. The run determination is bound by LAD criteria, even though the smallest winter-run Chinook salmon determined by LAD, are only a few millimeters larger than the spring-run sized fish observed in the monitoring.

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

SaMT reviewed and updated the Assessment document.

Agenda Item 6. Other Topics

SaMT may be moving away from meeting notes altogether in lieu of providing detailed information in the Weekly Outlook and Assessment documents. As a consequence, the weekly SWP ITP Risk Summary may need to be relocated to a different location.

NMFS and CDFW request that the Weekly Assessment document be shared in advance of the call to enable sufficient time for review. Reclamation notes that it is trying to limit the number of times the document needs to be updated each week to just the live-edit during the call. The document can be shared but it is requested that edits be provided on the call. SaMT members should reach out to their LTO member to share further considerations regarding document distribution and meeting notes procedure.

Agenda Item 7. Additional Considerations for WOMT

No additional considerations for WOMT were noted.

Agenda Item 8.

Next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/3/20 at 9:00 a.m.