

# Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

**Conference call: 11/9/2021 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

The Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gates were opened on 11/5/21 and will remain open to improve interior Delta water quality conditions until further notice.

NMFS requested an update on the efficacy of the recent aquatic weed treatment in Clifton Court Forebay (CCF), which will be provided by DWR at the 11/16/21 SaMT meeting.

QWEST is currently at -1,500 cfs. DWR noted that there is some question as to the validity of QWEST calculated value when the drought barrier is in-place as it alters the hydraulics of the channels influencing the calculation of QWEST.

NMFS noted that the Sacramento River may see Sacramento River flows of up to 20,000 cfs between 11/9/21 and 11/11/21 which could trigger a pulse of young of the year winter-run Chinook salmon moving downstream. NMFS asked if there is risk of exceeding water quality concern thresholds that would prevent closure of the DCC gates if Knights Landing and Sacramento catch indices were surpassed. DWR indicated that this doesn't look likely.

*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) 11/9/21.

SaMT discussed an approach to updating the Environmental and Fish Conditions column of Table 1 within the Outlook document. The group agreed that while editorial changes may be incorporated, content edits should be made by the Technical Teams. SaMT agreed to share a request for thorough descriptions of all life-stages present within a given watershed with the Technical Teams via track change comments in Table 1.

Reclamation noted that the steelhead loss observed on 10/30/21 has been included in Tables 2a-b, Daily and Cumulative Loss, within the Outlook document despite falling outside of the dates specified within the PA Assessment. This will be the approach going forward as it results in a more conservative approach to estimating fish presence and helps with “housekeeping” of data.

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: 80-90% Last week: 85-90%	Current: 10-19% Last week: 10-15%	Current: 0-1 % Last week: 0%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 99-100% Last week: 99-100%	Current: 0-1 % Last week: 0-1%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
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: 95-99% Last week: 95-99%	Current: 1-5% Last week: 1-5%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%

SaMT noted that the YOY winter-run Chinook Salmon seen at Chipps Island may actually be rearing west of Chipps Island.

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

No discussion items were noted.

**Agenda Item 4. Live edit Assessments**

*Proposed Action Assessment*

SaMT reviewed and updated the current week’s PA Assessment document. The updated PA Assessment will be distributed to the SaMT via email by COB 11/9/21. The final assessment will be

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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.

posted to [Reclamation's Salmon Monitoring Team](#) webpage.

#### *ITP Risk Assessment*

SaMT discussed the ITP Risk Assessment document. The updated draft ITP Assessment will be distributed via email by COB 11/9/2021 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB (Thursday) 11/11/2021. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday, 11/12/2021 and can be found at [CDFW's Water Project Operations webpage](#).

#### **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, 11/16/21, at 9 a.m.