

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Conference call: 11/16/2021 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

DWR will provide an update on the recent aquatic weed treatment at Clifton Court Forebay at the 11/23/21 SaMT meeting.

Exports at the Jones Pumping Plant were reduced a couple of times during the week due to aquatic debris and weed issues, likely resulting from the removal of the barriers.

The agricultural barriers at Middle River, Old River at Tracy, and Grant Line Canal were breach on 11/8/21, 11/8/21, and 11/13/21 respectively in agreement with action 4.10.5.4 in Reclamation's Proposed Action. These breaches are presumed to be the cause of the aquatic debris loading at the Delta fish facilities.

Starting on 11/12/2021, the Knights Landing Catch Index (KLCI) threshold (>5 fish per day) was exceeded. The KLCI value was greater than 5 fish from 11/12/2021 through 11/15/2021.

The Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gates were closed on 11/13/21. DCC gates may reopen on 11/18/21 if no more catch indices are exceeded.

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) 11/16/21.

SaMT continued a discussion from last week regarding an approach to updating the Environmental and Fish Conditions column of Table 1 within the Outlook document. The group agreed to accept SaMT members’ edits to the language provided by the watershed technical teams and to keep content at a high level.

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: 70-80% Last week: 80-90%	Current: 20-29% Last week: 10-19%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-1%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 97-100% Last week: 99-100%	Current: 0-3% Last week: 0-1%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	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%

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 11/16/21. The final assessment will be 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 11/16/2021 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB

(Thursday) 11/18/2021. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday, 11/19/2021 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, 11/23/21, at 9 a.m.