

# Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

**Conference call: 11/30/2021 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

There is a slight chance of light precipitation next Monday.

Freeport flows are currently at 6,000 cfs but spring tide conditions could lead to suppressed flows next week.

QWEST is currently at positive 1,400 cfs with the DCC gates open and 0 cfs or slightly negative with the DCC gates closed.

Rio Vista is currently at positive 1,800 with the DCC gates open and 4,000 cfs with the DCC gates closed.

The DCC gates were closed on 11/30 at 10 am for Rio Vista flow requirements, and will remain closed for seasonal closure starting on 12/1.

### *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) 11/30/21.

No loss of salmonids occurred during the past week. However, there was an error in reporting natural juvenile CCV steelhead loss last week in the Operations Outlook and PA Assessment. The loss of natural steelhead was reported as 3.29 fish due to an accounting error related to a predator

removal event at the CVP. A value of 0.57 fish was incorrectly reported instead of the correct value of 0.68 fish. The tables in the Ops Outlook and PA Assessment were updated accordingly.

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: 69-74% Last week: 70-75%	Current: 26-30% Last week: 25-29%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-1%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 97-100% Last week: 97-100%	Current: 0-3% Last week: 0-3%	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: 93-98% Last week: 93-98%	Current: 2-6% Last week: 2-6%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-1%

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

SaMT discussed the coordination of releases of spring-run surrogates (juvenile late-fall-run Chinook salmon) from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery (CNFH). The release of general production late-fall-run Chinook salmon will, for the most part, follow a strategy similar to recent years. Then, three raceways (i.e., three CWT codes) of late-fall-run Chinook salmon will be released. The timing for releases is as follows:

- Production release: Targeting early December, in concert with significant precipitation event.
- 1st surrogate release: ~3 days after the production release, regardless of precipitation events.
- 2nd surrogate release: Late December, ideally preceding (by ~3-7 days) a precipitation event and at least a week after the previous surrogate release.
- 3rd surrogate release: Mid-January, ideally preceding (by ~3-7 days) a precipitation event and at least a week after the previous surrogate release.

**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 11/30/21. 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 11/30/2021 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 12/2/2021. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday, 12/3/2021 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, 12/7/21, at 9 a.m.