

# Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

**Conference call: 12/21/2021 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

Clifton Court exports had ramped up to meet E:I requirements, but decreased yesterday to 1,200 cfs, and will decrease to 400 cfs to maintain a no more negative than -2,000 OMR flow for ITP Condition of Approval 8.3.1.

X2 is just downstream of the confluence and is expected to continue moving west with upcoming precipitation.

### *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) 12/21/21.

One natural winter-run Chinook salmon was observed at the Federal Facility (12/19/21) and two ad-clipped steelhead at the Federal Facility and State Facility (12/16/21 and 12/17/21 respectively).

The first release of hatchery spring-run surrogates occurred on 12/15/21 and the second release is targeted for 12/22/21.

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: 60-65% Last week: 65-70%	Current: 35-39% Last week: 30-34%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-1%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 90-95% Last week: 97-100%	Current: 5-10% 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: 88-93% Last week: 93-98%	Current: 7-11% Last week: 2-6%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-1%

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

The SaMT discussed the potential value of additional EDSM trawl surveys in the South Delta to better understand how reduced OMR impacts fish distribution. There could be a focus on salmon occupancy in good habitat.

While the additional data from additional EDSM trawl surveys could help indicate presence and provide more information regarding salmon occupancy in good habitat, given the type of monitoring it's not clear that it would be conclusive in terms of absence. Ultimately, the value of this effort may depend on where salmon rear (i.e., in terms of whether or not trawls would be effective in collecting an accurate sample).

### **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 12/21/21. 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 12/21/2021 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 12/23/2021. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday 12/24/2021 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, 12/28/21, at 9 a.m.