

# Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Conference call: 12/7/2021 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 Winter Run JPE (juvenile production estimate) project work team is finalizing the WR JPE for BY 2021. This year, unlike previous years, there is one JPI and a single model which incorporates the last five years with the new trapping configuration. Total Sacramento escapement for natural winter-run Chinook salmon was roughly 10,000. There was an increase in pre-spawn mortality over last year (roughly 5.5% and 3% respectively). There are ongoing discussions regarding temperature dependent mortality (TDM) and thiamine deficiency. NMFS will be finalizing a WR JPE letter in January 2022.

There is a storm event that could potentially arrive early next week bringing significant precipitation.

Feather River releases may decrease if the opportunity arises.

Freeport flows are currently 5,800 cfs and will likely stay close to that for this Outlook period.

Delta Outflow should stay around 3,500 cfs.

QWEST is currently at minus 200 cfs to 0 cfs.

Rio Vista is currently around 3,800 cfs.

X2 is still upstream of the confluence.

Jones Pumping Plant reduced exports from approximately 900 cfs to 800 cfs.

*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) 12/7/21.

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: 67-72%<br>Last week: 69-74%   | Current: 28-32%<br>Last week: 26-30% | Current: 0-1%<br>Last week: 0-1% |
| YOY spring-run Chinook salmon **               | Current: 97-100%<br>Last week: 97-100% | Current: 0-3%<br>Last week: 0-3%     | Current: 0%<br>Last week: 0%     |
| YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon***      | Current: NA<br>Last week: NA           | Current: NA<br>Last week: NA         | Current: NA<br>Last week: NA     |
| Natural origin steelhead                       | Current: 93-98%<br>Last week: 93-98%   | Current: 2-6%<br>Last week: 2-6%     | Current: 0-1%<br>Last week: 0-1% |

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

N.A.

**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 12/7/21. 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 12/7/2021 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 12/9/2021. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday, 12/10/2021 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, 12/14/21, at 9 a.m.