

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Conference call: 1/18/2022 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

Dry conditions with little chance of precipitation are anticipated to persist during this Outlook period creating declining inflows to the Delta.

Freeport flows have been declining and have not rebounded after USBR made changes at Nimbus for screw trap adjustments.

Operators are seeking to maintain a target OMR index value of $-5,000$ cfs (1,700 on average).

X2 is currently moving upstream (76 km) and is anticipated to continue moving inland.

QWEST is roughly -2000 cfs and Rio Vista is at 12000 cfs.

There are pending updates to Sacramento River storage conditions that will be updated separately.

The American River is still out of encroachment; however, flow and release are elevated as inflows are coming down and staying in the flood control envelope—expect updates.

Natural steelhead were observed at salvage during the past week.

During the past week, there was a loss of spring-run surrogates from hatchery release groups 1, 2, and 3. These losses are not near reaching the threshold.

Actions Currently in Effect

- OMR Management (8.3.2)
- Winter-run yearly loss (8.6.1)
- Mid and late season Winter-run daily loss threshold (8.6.3)

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) 1/18/22.

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: 20-35% Last week: 25-40%	Current: 60-79% Last week: 55-74%	Current: 1-5% Last week: 1-5%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 45-60% Last week: 55-70%	Current: 40-55% Last week: 30-45%	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: 70-75% Last week: 75-80%	Current: 25-29% Last week: 20-24%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-1%

Agenda Item 3. Open Discussion on Species Status

The JPE letter is currently under review and is anticipated to be distributed on 1/19/2022.

Members resolved that rounding precision should be to the hundredths place when reporting.

Genetics revealed fish picked up in salvage were late fall run rather than winter run.

Preparations are being made for rapid testing.

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 1/18/22. 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 1/18/22 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 1/13/22. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday 1/21/22 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, 1/25/22, at 9 a.m.