

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Conference call: 2/1/2022 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 U.S. 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

Behaviors associated with thiamine deficiency were observed in length-at date (LAD) juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon at the Butte Creek rotary screw trap.

Starting today, 2/1/22, QWEST is +2,500 cfs, and is expected to be +1,500 cfs through the next few days.

X2 has drifted upstream of the confluence (>81 km) and is anticipated to move downstream with higher outflow.

The Pacific States rotary screw trap was installed on the American River so there is no longer a need for a temporary flow reduction.

The Lower Sacramento rotary screw trap was installed on 1/21/22 and is operating.

Actions Currently in Effect

- Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate operations (PA 4.10.5.3): The DCC gates were closed on 11/30/2021 and are expected to remain closed through mid-May 2022. Positive impacts include preventing routing of listed fish through the DCC into the interior Delta. From February 1 to May 20, the DCC gates will be closed consistent with D-1641. From May 21 to June 15, the DCC gates will be closed for a total of 14 days, consistent with D-1641.
- OMR Management Season (PA 4.10.5.10.1): Onset of OMR Management season began on 1/1/22 due to the exceedance of the 5% threshold for the winter-run Chinook salmon population presence within the Delta. Old and Middle River (OMR) flows cannot be more negative than -5,000 cfs on a 14-day average. Additional restrictions and changes to operations may be required per the PA and the CDFW Incidental Take Permit (ITP- COA 8.3.2).
- ITP Winter-run Single-year Loss Threshold (COA 8.6.1): DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval 8.6.1 of the ITP. The ITP Winter-run Single-year Loss Threshold for this year is loss of length-at-date winter-run Chinook salmon from the CVP and SWP greater than or equal to 1.17% of the winter-run Chinook salmon juvenile production estimate (JPE). If 50% of the threshold is exceeded (loss >731.47), the required response is to reduce SWP exports by its proportional share, according to the coordinated operations agreement (COA), that would be required to reach a 14-day average OMR of -3,500 cfs. If 75% of this threshold is exceeded (loss >1,097.21), the required response is to reduce SWP exports by its proportional share, according to the COA, that would be required to reach a 14-day average OMR of -2,500 cfs.
- ITP Older Juvenile Daily Loss Threshold (COA 8.6.3): From 2/1/22 - 2/28/22, DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval 8.6.3 of the ITP. The ITP Daily Loss Threshold for February is loss of older juvenile Chinook salmon from CVP and SWP greater than 0.00991% of the winter-run Chinook salmon juvenile production estimate (JPE). If the threshold is exceeded (loss >12.39), the required response is to reduce SWP exports by its proportional share, according to the COA, that would be required to reach an OMR of no more negative than -3,500 cfs for five consecutive days.

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) 2/1/22.

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: 10-25% Last week: 15-30%	Current: 74-85% Last week: 69-80%	Current: 1-5% Last week: 1-5%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 28-43% Last week: 35-50%	Current: 57-72% Last week: 50-65%	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: 60-70% Last week: 60-70%	Current: 27-39% Last week: 27-39%	Current: 1-3% Last week: 1-3%

Agenda Item 3. Open Discussion on Species Status

No additional discussion occurred.

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 2/1/22. 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 2/1/22 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 2/3/22. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday 2/4/22 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.

Corrections to the 1/25/22 Meeting Summary are included in bold:

- Yearling spring-run surrogate loss from hatchery release group 2 occurred during the past week. Loss of clipped steelhead was observed at the CVP and SWP facilities.
- Operations plan to maintain the 7-day and 14-day OMR no more negative than -5,000 cfs until February 1 after which Clifton Court allotments will likely be 300 cfs to meet the Chipps Island standards.

There was interest expressed in having a short presentation on thiamine deficiency at a future SaMT meeting and the following links were provided for background information on this topic:

- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/science-data/monitoring-thiamine-deficiency-california-salmon>
- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/science-data/monitoring-thiamine-deficiency-california-salmon>

Agenda Item 6.

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 2/8/22, at 9 a.m.