

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Conference call: 4/5/2022 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

Action Items:

CDFW – internally discuss how to calculate the fish distribution table to equal 100%.

Suzanne Manugian – interpret Figure A.3 in the Proposed Action Assessment to explain flow graphs.

Agenda Item 2. Updates on Water Operations and Biological Conditions Relevant Actions and Triggers

Feather River releases decreased from 3,500 cfs to 2,100 cfs and will continue to decrease over the next couple of days.

Sacramento River flows at Freeport are at 9,800 cfs and will decrease as Feather River decreases move towards the Delta.

San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are currently at 925 cfs and will decrease over the next couple of days.

Goodwin Dam, on the Stanislaus River is currently releasing 300 cfs and will decrease to 200 cfs tomorrow (4/6/22), the minimum base flow for the Stanislaus River before the spring pulse flow.

American River releases out of Nimbus Dam are decreasing today to a target of 1,000 cfs.

Delta outflow was approximately 8,000 cfs with expected decreases throughout the week.

Delta exports at Jones Pumping Plant are 900 cfs and are expected to hold for the next two months. Clifton Court Forebay exports are 600 cfs.

QWEST was at +3,000 cfs on 4/1/22 and 4/2/22. Currently QWEST is at +800 cfs as of 4/4 and will likely decrease to near 0 cfs by the end of the week.

X2 is upstream of the confluence (approximately 81 km).

Tidal cycle is nearing the end of a spring tidal and will move into a neap cycle by the end of the week.

For details on salvage that occurred in the past week please refer to the Operations Outlook, PA Assessment, and ITP Risk Assessment documents. Additionally, all salvage information can be found online at [CDFW's Public Data Library](#).

Actions Currently in Effect

- The Interim Operations Plan (IOP) is currently in effect resulting from a court order on 3/11/22 and will determine operations for the remainder of WY 2022. Federal and State management are discussing how the IOP will affect the SaMT's weekly requirements. Reclamation shall adopt the following provisions of the SWP ITP:
 - 8.5.2 Larval and Juvenile Delta Smelt Protection
 - 8.6.1 Winter-run Single-year Loss Threshold
 - 8.6.2 Early-season Natural Winter-run Chinook Salmon Discrete Daily Loss Threshold
 - 8.6.3 Mid- and Late-season Natural Winter-run Chinook Salmon Daily Loss Threshold
 - 8.6.4 Daily Spring-run Chinook Salmon Hatchery Surrogate Loss Threshold
 - 8.7 OMR Flexibility During Delta Excess Conditions
 - 8.8 End of OMR Management
- Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate operations (PA 4.10.5.3): The DCC gates were closed on 11/30/21 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; COA 8.3.2): 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 SWP Incidental Take Permit (ITP)
- 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 natural-origin Winter-run Single-year Loss Threshold for this year is loss of unclipped 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.
 - The ITP hatchery-origin Chinook salmon Single-year Loss Threshold for this year is loss of clipped length-at-date winter-run Chinook salmon from the CVP and SWP greater than or equal to 0.12% of the winter-run Chinook salmon hatchery-origin JPE. If 50% of the threshold is exceeded (loss > 90.93), 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 > 136.39), 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 4/1/22 – 4/30/22, DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval 8.6.3 of the ITP. The ITP Daily Loss Threshold for April is loss of older juvenile Chinook salmon from CVP and SWP greater than 0.00507% of the winter-run Chinook salmon JPE. If the threshold is exceeded (loss >6.34), 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.
- ITP Daily Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Hatchery Surrogate Loss Threshold (COA 8.6.4): From 3/1/22 – 6/30/22, DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval 8.6.4 of the ITP. The ITP Hatchery Surrogate Loss Threshold for WY 2022 will include four fall-run release groups from Coleman

National Fish Hatchery (CNFH) and two spring-run release groups from Feather River Fish Hatchery (FRFH). If cumulative loss from CVP and SWP is greater than 0.25% for any release group (CNFH Group 1: loss >1,799.60; CNFH Group 2: loss >1,873.42; CNFH Group 3: loss >2,646.10, FRFH Group 1: loss >1823.00), 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 -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) 4/5/22.

Due to ongoing drought conditions, Nimbus Fish Hatchery fall-run Chinook salmon releases are likely to be released in the Bay and will not meet the needs for ITP Condition 8.6.4. To satisfy ITP Condition 8.6.4, CDFW and DWR agreed to substitute two fall-run Chinook salmon release groups from Coleman National Fish Hatchery in place of fall-run releases from Nimbus Fish Hatchery.

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: 1-5% Last week: 1-5%	Current: 65-79% Last week: 75-84%	Current: 20-30% Last week: 15-20%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 10-20% Last week: 10-25%	Current: 70-89% Last week: 75-90%	Current: 1-10% Last week: 0%
YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: 65-79% Last week: 67-79%	Current: 16-23% Last week: 16-23%	Current: 5-12% Last week: 5-10%
Natural origin steelhead	Current: 25-45% Last week: 30-50%	Current: 35-45% Last week: 35-50%	Current: 20-30% Last week: 15-20%

Agenda Item 3. Open Discussion on Species Status

No discussion at this time.

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 4/5/22. 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 4/5/22 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB

Friday 4/8/22. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday 4/8/22 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.

University of Washington has added information on the PA and ITP spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates for WY 2022. This information is found on the [Salmon Monitoring Team SacPAS](#) website under the section "CWT Spring Surrogates".

SaMT discussed how to correctly calculate the fish distribution table in order for the totals to equal 100%.

Agenda Item 6. Next Meeting

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 4/12/22, at 9 a.m.