



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Conference call: 10/4/22 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

Generally, the current conditions reflect a drier, warmer trend. Temperatures are expected to rise this week before dropping again. Currently in a seasonal transition state with no anticipated timeframe for significantly cooler water conditions.

Releases from Whiskeytown Dam into Clear Creek are currently at 200 cfs with no anticipated changes.

Releases from Keswick Dam into the Sacramento River are currently at 4,100 cfs with possible decrease to 4,000 cfs.

Sacramento River flows at Freeport are currently at 6,900 cfs. Flows have recently been ranging between 6,000 – 7,500 cfs.

Feather River releases are at 2,500 cfs with no plans to change due to Delta needs.

Nimbus Dam, on the American River is currently releasing 1,500 cfs with a possible decrease to 1,300 cfs.

Goodwin Dam, on the Stanislaus River is currently releasing 150 cfs with a range of 150-200 cfs.

San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are currently below 300 cfs with the possibility to increase over the next weeks.

Delta outflows are currently at 3,200 cfs and potentially increasing to 4,000 cfs this week.

Delta exports from Jones Pumping Plant are currently at 1,800 cfs but will decrease to 900 cfs on 10/5/22.

Exports at Clifton Court Forebay are currently 500 cfs with no anticipated changes.

QWEST is currently at 700 cfs but will likely drift negative this week with potential to reach 2,000 cfs by the weekend when the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gates are open.

Rio Vista flows are approximately 2,000 cfs with the DCC gates open and 4,500 – 5,000 cfs with the DCC gates closed. The primary concern is balancing the Rio Vista flows with the water quality requirements.

The Mokelumne pulse flow was expected to begin on 10/3/22.

- 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 <https://filelib.wildlife.ca.gov/Public/salvage/>.

Actions Currently in Effect

- Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate operations (PA 4.10.5.3): The DCC gates are planned to close during the week and open on the weekends. The gate schedule is subject to change due to flow or water quality concerns. Delta operations are looking for the balance between the flow and salinity requirements. Closed DCC gates push a higher volume of water through the Sacramento River to better meet the Rio Vista requirement. Open DCC gates allow for a refresh of higher quality water to meet the salinity requirements in the interior Delta.

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) 10/4/22.

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. Only estimation of juvenile natural winter-run Chinook Salmon was discussed this week. These estimates are reported in the final Assessment document, available on [Reclamation's Salmon Monitoring Team](#) webpage. Many of the rotary screw traps (RSTs) are not operational yet due to high water temperatures; therefore, estimates this week are mostly based on winter-run (WR) passage at Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST.

| Location | Yet to Enter Delta | In the Delta | Exited the Delta |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon | Current: 100% Last week: NA | Current: 0% Last week: NA | Current: 0% Last week: NA |
| YOY spring-run Chinook salmon | Current: NA Last week: NA | Current: NA Last week: NA | Current: NA Last week: NA |
| 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: NA Last week: NA | Current: NA Last week: NA | Current: NA Last week: NA |

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 10/4/22. The final assessment will be posted to [Reclamation’s Salmon Monitoring Team](#) webpage.

ITP Risk Assessment

The ITP Risk Assessment will begin distribution on 11/1/22, unless real-time monitoring stations begin to see increased WR passage due to weather conditions or other factors.

Agenda Item 5. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

Adam Nanninga, USFWS, is replacing Eric Huber for the 2022-2023 year and will be providing updates for gear efficiency and disruptions.

Please reach out to Mia Schiappi, K&W with specific presentation requests for weekly meetings.

Nick Bertrand will look into a potential DSM2 presentation.

Jereme Gaeta will present at the 10/11/22 meeting. The presentation will provide an overview on a project that incorporates a machine-learning model for predicting entrainment on salvage facilities for winter-run and involves a stakeholder group that includes SaMT members. The project team plans to develop a web tool based on the analysis.

Adam Nanninga will follow up with Randi Field and Crystal Rigby regarding the SCI trawl and seine distribution list.

Agenda Item 6. Next Meeting

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 10/11/22, at 9 a.m.