



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 10/18/22 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. Introductions
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

The forecast is showing warm, dry weather this week with an anticipated cooling trend by the weekend. There is a slight chance of rain showers over the weekend.

The Delta is being operated for salinity and flow requirements.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are at 500 cfs with no anticipated change through the weekend. Herbicide application is scheduled to cease early next week.

Feather River releases will likely not decrease until additional inflow to the lower Sacramento River watershed is received.

Freeport flows have been oscillating around 6,500 cfs.

Nimbus Dam, on the American River releases may decrease by 100 cfs if conditions are favorable.

Fall pulse flows on the Stanislaus River are currently happening with some cycling occurring between pulses. The fall pulse schedule began on 10/13/22 and is will continue through the end of October.

San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are variable due to the pulse flow on the Stanislaus River. Flows could potentially reach 3,200 cfs at Vernalis by 10/23/22.

Delta exports from Jones Pumping Plant may increase due to unexpected maintenance work occurring over the weekend.

QWEST was approximately +2,000 cfs when the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gates were closed during the weekdays. When the DCC gates were open on the weekend, QWEST barely reached a negative cfs. QWEST and Rio Vista flows are dependent upon the opening and closing of the DCC gates. The primary concern is balancing the Rio Vista flows with the water quality requirements.

Water quality has improved over the last two days but will be monitored for short or long-term indications. Releases may decrease or other actions may be taken if the conditions show long-term improvement.

The second phase of the Mokelumne Pulse Flow started on 10/17/22.

No salvage of listed species has occurred this water year. 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) 10/18/22.

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 because spring-run Chinook salmon juveniles have not yet emerged from the gravel or

been seen in any of the real-time monitoring locations. Therefore, estimates this week are mostly based on winter run (WR) passage at Red Bluff Diversion Dam, Tisdale, and GCID RST. These estimates are reported in the final Assessment document, available on [Delta Monitoring Workgroup](#) webpage.

Location	Yet to Enter Delta	In the Delta	Exited the Delta
Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: 100% Last week: 100%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
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 Proposed Action Assessment document. The updated Proposed Action Assessment will be distributed to the SaMT via email by COB 10/18/22. The final assessment will be posted to [Reclamation’s Delta Monitoring Workgroup](#) webpage.

ITP Risk Assessment

The ITP Risk Assessment will begin distribution on 11/1/22, unless real-time monitoring stations begin to see an increase in winter-run Chinook salmon passage due to weather conditions or other factors.

Agenda Item 5. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

Crystal Rigby, CDFW, emailed the revised Fish Distribution Estimates and OMR Offramp Language document to the SaMT group. Please reach out to her with additional comments or clarifications before including it on the shared Kearns & West Teams link.

Note of potential time change for SaMT and SMT weekly meetings to allow for SMT to not work through their lunch break. Suggestions are being discussed at the LTO meeting and final changers are TBD. If any SaMT members would like to be part of this discussion, reach out to Crystal Rigby, CDFW to get included on the meeting invite.

- NMFS suggested renaming the Salmon Monitoring Team to the Salmonid Monitoring to be inclusive of steelhead.

Ian Smith, Reclamation, will join the SaMT as support for the Reclamation leads.

Agenda Item 6. Next Meeting

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 10/25/22, at 9 a.m.