



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 10/25/22 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

Mild conditions are expected due to the seasonal change in temperature starting this week and will continue through the next two weeks. There is some chance of precipitation this weekend in Northern California along the Pacific Coastline but will not impact the valley floors or the Sierra.

There are no anticipated changes to releases at Feather River, Whiskeytown Dam, and Keswick Dam based on the current amount of inflow to the system and Delta water quality needs.

There is not currently an opportunity for storage conservation at Folsom Dam.

Fall pulse flows from Goodwin Dam on the Stanislaus River will continue through 11/1/22. Then releases will return to base flows.

The San Joaquin River is continuing pulsing activities. Decreases in releases will occur over the next week, with the final pulse peak occurring at the end of October.

Freeport flow has been variable due to the tidal and pressure changes.

Delta outflow management is being driven by water quality, which was high over the weekend but has been receding. The goal is to have conditions prepared for the False River Barrier breaching that is beginning on 11/1/22. Grant Line Canal River Barrier will begin deconstruction and start to be breached on 11/1/22.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports will be at zero from 10/24/22 – 10/26/22 due to an herbicide application within CCF. Exports from 10/27/22 – 10/30/22 will be increased to 500 cfs for the remainder of the week, and 1,000 cfs over the weekend.

QWEST has been moving between +300 cfs and +4,500 cfs depending on DCC gate operations and the amount of water at Freeport. The number is variable but is significantly positive when the DCC gates are closed.

Rio Vista flows are variable and dependent on the position of the DCC gates.

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): DCC gates were closed on 10/24/22. DCC gates are closed during the weekdays and open on the weekends, with change orders on Friday 10/28/22. Anticipating continuing the same operation with no change in hydrology, there are also no anticipated changes with precipitation, which will not change the dynamics of the Delta. Will need to continue the freshening and flow protection with the current opening and closing cycle until something changes in the system.

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) 10/28/22.

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 all of the real-time monitoring locations. These estimates are reported in the final Assessment document, available on the [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 4. Open Discussion on Species Status

N/A

Agenda Item 5. 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 10/25/22. 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.

Agenda Item 6. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

CDFW provided updates on the American River Power Bypass. A power bypass has been accepted by Reclamation, although it is not the same proposal put forth by the fisheries agencies. The power bypass began on 10/20/22 at 100 cfs and gradually increased to 300 cfs until the target temperature of 62°F was reached. The bypass is currently at 300 cfs now and is targeting 62°F until the end of October. The power bypass will increase to a full power bypass of 500 cfs in November and will run until the target temperature of 56° F is reached or until the cold-water pool runs out.

There will be a Long-Term Operations (LTO) meeting on 11/27/22 to discuss streamlining the Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) and the SaMT meetings.

Agenda Item 7. Next Meeting

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/1/2022, at 9 a.m.