



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 11/01/22 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 Proposed Action Assessment, and Fish and Water Operations Outlook will be posted to [Reclamation's Delta Monitoring Work Group](#) webpage, while final version of the Meeting Notes 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

Moderate precipitation is expected on 11/1/22 with some additional rainfall over the weekend, primarily focused around the North Coast, Smith Basin, and central Sierra Nevada range. The Central Valley is expected to receive approximately an inch during the coming week.

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.

American River flows downstream from Nimbus Dam are expected to vary by 1,000 cfs this week. Redd surveys started in early to mid-October; no redds have been observed yet. Carcass surveys revealed 16 total carcasses with 2 prespaw mortality. Water temperatures are currently averaging close to 61.7 degrees Fahrenheit, showing a decrease from the previous week.

The San Joaquin River is expected to decrease releases as fall pulsing activities conclude.

Stanislaus Fall pulse is complete. Anticipating flows will decrease as a result from the tail end of the pulse period.

Delta flows at Freeport continue to be variable due to the tidal and pressure changes. Flows at Vernalis are expected to decrease this week.

Jones Pumping Plant is not expected to increase exports.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports have decreased from 1,000 cfs to 500 cfs and are expected to remain at 500 cfs. Outflow is expected to decrease from 6,000 cfs as San Joaquin flows decrease. Water quality is being monitored to allow for water conservation once conditions improve.

QWEST currently ranges between +3,000 cfs and 0 cfs depending on DCC gate operations.

Rio Vista flows currently ranging between 5,000 cfs and 2,500 cfs, depending on the position of the DCC gates.

The False River Barrier started being breached on 11/1/22. Grant Line Canal River Barrier breaching has been postponed to 11/7/22. Old River at the Tracy Barrier is expected to begin breaching on 11/4/22. Middle River is expected to begin on or near 11/16/22.

The tidal cycle is coming out of a neap cycle and into an upcoming spring cycle with a full moon on 11/8/22. The weather system is expected to experience some pressure changes. Delta conditions will be affected by all of these factors.

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 10/31/22. DCC gates are closed during the weekdays and open on the weekends, with a change order to open the gates on Friday 11/4/22 and close on Monday 11/7/22. Anticipating continuing the same operation with no change in hydrology. Will need to continue the freshening and flow protection with the current opening and closing cycle until something changes in the system.
- 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, 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, 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. o 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, 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, 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 Early-season Natural Winter-run Chinook Salmon Discrete Daily Loss Threshold (COA 8.6.2): From 11/1/22 – 11/30/22, DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plan consistent with COA 8.6.2 of the ITP. The ITP Daily Loss Threshold for November is loss off older juvenile Chinook salmon from the CVP and SWP equal to or greater than 6 per day. If the threshold is exceeded (loss \geq 6), the required response is to reduce SWP exports by its proportional share, according to the COA, that would reach an OMR no more negative than -5,000 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) 11/4/22.

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 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: 100% Last week: NA	Current: 0% Last week: NA	Current: 0% 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

No salmonids have been observed at any of the Delta real-time monitoring stations. No salmonids have been seen at the salvage facilities but monitoring will continue through the upcoming, forecasted precipitation.

As of last week, there were still three percent of winter-run eggs to emerge. The rest of the eggs are expected to emerge this week.

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 11/1/22. The final assessment will be posted to [Reclamation's Delta Monitoring Workgroup](#) webpage.

Suggestion to include the Tillotson model in the Proposed Action Assessment starting the week of 11/7/22.

Estimates for steelhead will tentatively start the week of 11/7/22. Entrainment risks for spring-run Chinook salmon will also begin.

ITP Risk Assessment

SaMT discussed the ITP Risk Assessment document. The updated draft ITP Assessment will be distributed via email by COB 11/1/22 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 11/3/22. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday 11/4/22 and can be found at [CDFW's Water Project Operations](#) webpage.

Overall entrainment into the central Delta remains low this week for juvenile winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon. Freeport flows are low, and the DCC gates are opening on the weekends; however, due to seasonal timing and no observations in Delta real-time monitoring stations winter-run Chinook salmon are not expected to have a high risk of entrainment into the Delta and into the salvage facilities.

Agenda Item 6. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

Action Item: Send examples to Nick Bertrand (nbertrand@usbr.gov) of how the DSM2 has been useful. Anecdotal information will help shape an upcoming course on DSM2. SaMT is tentatively scheduled to discuss the topic further at the 11/15/22 SaMT meeting.

Agenda Item 7. Next Meeting

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/8/22, at 9 a.m.