



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 11/8/22 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

The Central Valley received precipitation on 11/8/22 with the southern and higher Sierras expected to be the most favorable locations. Drier conditions expected later in the week. There is potential for precipitation early next week.

Clear Creek releases from Whiskeytown Dam are anticipated to remain consistent at 200 cfs.

Releases at Keswick Dam into the Sacramento River are expected to decrease due to precipitation with a change order in place to decrease by 100 cfs from 11/9 – 11/10/22. The resulting release will be 3,700 cfs.

Flows for the Sacramento River at Freeport are expected to increase this week from 7,500 cfs to 9,000 cfs.

Feather River releases will decrease this week due to precipitation and inflow to the Delta.

American River has a change order in place to decrease flows by 100 cfs; releases from Nimbus Dam on 11/9/22 will drop to 1,300 cfs.

Redd surveys were conducted the first week of November with 11 redds observed. Carcass surveys revealed redds and evidence of spawning. Water temperatures have decreased to an average of 59.3° F, allowing fall-run Chinook salmon spawning to become more active.

Stanislaus River releases have returned to base flow of 200 cfs following completion of the fall pulse.

Delta flows at Freeport and Vernalis continue to be variable due to the tidal and pressure changes.

Jones Pumping Plant is expected to increase exports from 900 cfs to 1,800 cfs mid-week due to additional inflow.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) is likely to increase exports due to precipitation.

QWEST flow values continue to be variable depending on DCC gate operations.

Rio Vista flows are expected to increase with the precipitation and the closing of the DCC gates.

Mokelumne pulse flow ended on 11/8/22.

The tidal cycle is at the peak of spring tide with the full moon Nov. 7-8. Delta water quality conditions have improved, and water levels have risen.

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 11/7/22. DCC gates are closed during the weekdays and open on the weekends, with a change order to open the gates on Friday 11/11/22 and close on Monday 11/14/22. Upcoming gate schedules will be re-evaluated with changing conditions due to precipitation and inflow.
- 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. These values are based on the JPE, which is TBD at the moment.
 - 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) (loss \geq TBD). If 50% of the threshold is exceeded (loss \geq TBD), 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 \geq TBD), 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 (loss \geq TBD). If 50% of the threshold is exceeded (loss \geq TBD), 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 \geq TBD), 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) 11/11/22.

SaMT discussed Fish Monitoring Gear Efficiency/Disruptions as addressed within the Operations Outlook and updated accordingly.

Heavy debris is getting lodged in the rotary screw traps (RST) at Knights Landing and the lower Sacramento RST and trap movement is impeded. Knights Landing raised the cones on 11/5/22 due to the amount of duckweed. The clogged traps present a potential mortality risk to salmonids, and the Knights Landing trap status has changed to Not Active.

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. Three spring-run and three winter-run Chinook salmon juveniles have been seen at the GCID RST this week. One yearling spring-run was observed at Butte Creek. Estimates this week are based on YOY winter-run and spring-run as well as natural origin steelhead 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: 100%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
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: 100% Last week: NA	Current: 0% Last week: NA	Current: 0% Last week: NA

Agenda Item 4. Open Discussion on Species Status

No salmonids have yet been salvaged at the SWP or CVP export facilities for WY 2023.

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 11/8/22. The final assessment will be posted to [Reclamation’s Delta Monitoring Workgroup](#) webpage.

The Tillotson entrainment model was added into the Proposed Action Assessment.

ITP Risk Assessment

SaMT discussed the ITP Risk Assessment document. The updated draft ITP Risk Assessment will be distributed via email by COB 11/8/22 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 11/10/22. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday 11/11/22 and can be found at [CDFW’s Water Project Operations](#) webpage.

Overall risk of entrainment into the central Delta remains low this week for juvenile winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon. Overall risk of entrainment into the salvage facilities remains low as well. Winter-run are expected to move further downstream in the upper Sacramento River and possibly into the Delta with the rain event but due to seasonal timing it is unlikely that they will end up in the salvage facilities this week.

Agenda Item 6. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

SaMT members are encouraged to 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. The discussion is pushed back to the 11/29/22 SaMT meeting.

Updated SaMT documents will be uploaded on Thursday, 11/10/22, due to the federal holiday on 11/11/22.

Beginning 11/15/22, SaMT meetings will include members from the Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) due to the collaborative Operations and Outlook meetings.

Agenda Item 7. Next Meeting

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/15/22, immediately following the Operations & Outlook 9 a.m. meeting.