



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 11/15/22 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

Dry conditions are forecasted this week. Air temperatures warming to near average by mid-week.

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

Releases at Keswick Dam into the Sacramento River are expected to decrease from approximately 3,600 cfs to 3,500 cfs and may continue to decrease to a minimum of 3,250 cfs.

Sacramento River flows at Freeport are expected to decrease this week to approximately 6,000 cfs.

Feather River releases are expected to decrease this week from 2,000 cfs to at most 1,600 cfs due to precipitation.

American River releases are currently at 1,300 cfs with no anticipated changes this week.



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Carcass surveys on the American River revealed an increase in redds. Pre-spawn mortality reached high levels this week, possibly due to high water temperatures. Water temperatures have decreased to an average of 57° F this week.

Stanislaus River releases are currently at 200 cfs with no anticipated changes this week.

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

Jones Pumping Plant exports are currently at 1,800 cfs.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) will decrease exports this week down from 500 cfs, pending water levels.

QWEST flow values continue to be variable depending on DCC gate operations. With the rain and the gates open, QWEST flow values peaked just under 4,000 cfs last weekend. As flows decrease, QWEST will range between 1,000 and 2,000 to cfs.

Rio Vista flows will vary with the opening and closing of the DCC gates.

The tidal cycle is approaching spring tide with new moon on 11/23/22.

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): DCC gates were closed on 11/14/22. DCC gates are closed during the weekdays and open on the weekends, with a change order to open the gates on Friday 11/18/22 and close on Monday 11/21/22. This gate schedule will continue through November and 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 -2,000 cfs.



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- 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 -2,000 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 of 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) 11/18/22.

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. 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: 100%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%



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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 11/15/22. The final assessment will be posted to [Reclamation's Delta Monitoring Workgroup](#) webpage.

ITP Risk Assessment

SaMT discussed the ITP Risk Assessment document. The updated draft ITP Risk Assessment will be distributed via email by COB 11/15/22 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 11/17/22. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by Friday 11/18/22 and can be found at [CDFW's Water Project Operations](#) webpage.

Agenda Item 6. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

SaMT members recommended including a discussion on salvage to the weekly meeting.

Agenda Item 7. Next Meeting

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/21/22, immediately following the Operations & Outlook 9 a.m. meeting.