



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 11/22/22 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 forecasted with a slight warming trend through the week of 11/21/22.

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

Releases at Keswick Dam into the Sacramento River are at the minimum base flow of 3,250 cfs.

Sacramento River flows at Freeport are 6,500 cfs. Flows this week may be variable with the tides.

San Joaquin River flows are currently at 675 cfs with no anticipated changes.

Feather River releases are currently at 1,600 cfs and may decrease to 1,200 cfs.

American River releases are currently at 1,300 cfs with no anticipated changes this week. The Folsom power bypass is currently in progress. As of 11/22/22 bypass flows are at 400 cfs and will decrease to 200 cfs on 11/28/22.



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Carcass surveys on the American River revealed an increase in spawned females. Pre-spawn mortalities included 14 out of 73 females, yielding a 19% mortality rate. Redd surveys revealed higher numbers of fish last week than were recorded for the entire previous season, and water temperatures over the past week averaged 56.7° F.

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

Delta outflow index is currently around 3,700 cfs and expected to remain in the mid-3,000 cfs range.

Jones Pumping Plant exports are expected to decrease from 1,800 cfs to 900 cfs on 11/24/22.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 500 cfs, with the possibility of increasing to 1,000 cfs on 11/24/22.

QWEST flow values continue to be variable depending on DCC gate operations. With the gates open, QWEST flow values were approximately 1,500 cfs over the weekend. With the gates closed this week, flows are expected to be approximately -500 cfs.

Rio Vista flows were approximately 2,000 cfs with the DCC gates open over the weekend. With the gates closed during the week, flows are approximately 5,000 cfs. Flows are expected to decrease over the next few weeks.

Trinity River flows are currently at 300 cfs. A power bypass was completed over the weekend.

The tidal cycle is approaching spring tide with new moon on 11/23/22, causing water levels to rise. Levels are expected to recede with the neap cycle next week.

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 11/21/22. They are scheduled to open on Friday 11/25/22 for salinity and seasonal weekend operation and to allow boaters passage to the interior Delta will and close on Monday 11/28/22. Gates will remain closed going forward starting 11/28/22.
- 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,



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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.

- 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) 11/23/22.

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.



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Location	Yet to Enter Delta	In the Delta	Exited the Delta
Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: 95-100% Last week: 100%	Current: 0-5% 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%

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 11/23/22. 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 11/22/22 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Monday 11/28/22. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by COB Monday 11/28/22 and can be found at [CDFW’s Water Project Operations](#) webpage.

Agenda Item 6. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

The Smelt Monitoring Group (SMT) is having a salvage tutorial on 11/29/22 beginning at 11 a.m. All SaMT members are invited to join for the presentation, and a calendar invitation will be distributed.

Nick Bertrand, USBR, will follow up with the presenters for the DSM2 discussion with the possibility of the presentation moving from 11/29/22 to 12/6/22. SaMT members will be updated accordingly.

Agenda Item 7. Next Meeting

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/29/22, immediately following the Joint Operations & Outlook 9 a.m. meeting.