



## Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 12/20/22 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

Central Valley conditions are currently dry. Air temperatures are expected to rise slightly this week. Any anticipated precipitation is expected to occur in northern California, favoring the Smith Basin. Trace amounts of precipitation may be seen on the valley floor.

Clear Creek releases from Whiskeytown Dam remain at 200 cfs.

Sacramento River releases from Keswick Dam are at the minimum release of 3,250 cfs.

Sacramento River flows at Freeport are currently at 8,900 cfs and anticipated to drop further this week as determined by tidal forces.

San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are currently at 1,200 cfs and are expected to decrease through the week.

Feather River releases from Oroville Dam are currently at 950 cfs with some variation expected this week.

American River releases from Nimbus Dam are currently at 1,300 cfs with no anticipated changes.

Stanislaus River releases from Goodwin Dam are currently at 200 cfs with no anticipated changes.

The Delta outflow index is currently at 5,000 cfs and expected to maintain a 4,000–5,000 cfs range this week. Water quality has improved with the recent precipitation.

Jones Pumping Plant exports are currently at 1,800 cfs. A change order is in place to reduce exports to 900 cfs on 12/23/22.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 1,000 cfs and will decrease to 500 cfs on 12/20/22. Exports peaked at 5,000 cfs last week.

QWEST flow values are currently at -600 cfs and are expected to fluctuate between -600 cfs and +400 cfs this week.

A stronger spring tide is anticipated with the new moon on 12/23/22 with a neap tide beginning 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): Gates closed for the season on 11/28/22 to meet LTO Proposed Action. The gates will remain closed until May unless an opening is needed to meet D-1641 water quality requirements.
- 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 currently in development.
  - 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.
  - 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 – 12/31/22, 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. The ITP Daily Loss Threshold for December is loss of older juvenile Chinook salmon from the CVP and SWP equal to or greater than 26 per day. If the threshold is exceeded (loss  $\geq$ 6, loss  $\geq$ 26), 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) 12/21/22.

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. 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: 75-90% Last week: 85-95%	Current: 10-25% Last week: 5-15%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 90-99% Last week: 95-99%	Current: 1-10% Last week: 1-5%	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: 95-99% Last week: 100%	Current: 1-5% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%

**Agenda Item 4. Open Discussion on Species Status**

Clipped Chinook salmon were salvaged at the CVP and SWP facilities. Two clipped late fall-run Chinook salmon from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery production group were salvaged. No fish have yet been observed in salvage from the spring-run surrogate group.

One non-clipped winter-run-sized Chinook salmon was observed on 12/18/22 at the SWP (loss of 17.54 fish).

## **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 12/21/22. 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 12/20/22 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 12/22/22. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by COB Friday 12/23/22 and can be found at [CDFW's Water Project Operations](#) webpage.

## **Agenda Item 6. Additional Considerations/Other Topics**

N/A

## **Agenda Item 7. Next Meeting**

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 12/27/22, immediately following the Joint Operations & Outlook 9 a.m. meeting.