



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 12/27/22 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 is anticipating precipitation through the week. The Shasta region expects over 6 inches of precipitation. The Sierra Nevada range is expected to receive 11-13 inches. The valley floor expects 3-4 inches, and the San Joaquin River may receive 2-3 inches.

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 7,300 cfs and are anticipated to vary with the neap tide this week. Freeport flows may increase to 30,000 cfs with the incoming storm events.

San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are currently just below 1,000 cfs and are expected to reach over 2,000 cfs 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 dropping below 4,000 cfs with the potential to see outflows up to 40,000 cfs due to anticipated precipitation and runoff levels.

Jones Pumping Plant exports are currently at 900 cfs. A change order is in place to increase to 2,700 cfs later in the week and increase again to 3,500 cfs on 12/30/22.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 4,500 cfs and expected to reach up to 6,680 cfs.

QWEST flow values are currently at -1,100 cfs but are expected to return to positive figures this week with the potential to reach +10,000 cfs.

Rio Vista flows are currently at 5,000 cfs with the potential to reach 30,000 cfs.

The tidal cycle is approaching a neap tide this 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.
- ITP Mid- and Late-season Natural Winter-run Chinook Salmon Daily Loss Threshold (COA 8.6.3): From 1/1/2022 – 1/31/2022, DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval 8.6.3 of the ITP. The ITP Daily Loss Threshold for January is loss of older juvenile Chinook salmon from CVP and SWP greater than 0.0077% of the winter-run Chinook salmon JPE. If the threshold is exceeded (loss $>$ TBD), the required response is to reduce SWP exports by its proportional share, according to the COA, that would be required to reach an OMR of no more negative than -3,500 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) 12/27/22.

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. Due to most real-time monitoring station data being unavailable prior to the SaMT meeting, distribution estimates were not changed this week. 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: 75-90%	Current: 10-25% Last week: 10-25%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 90-99% Last week: 90-99%	Current: 1-10% Last week: 1-10%	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: 95-99%	Current: 1-5% Last week: 1-5%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%

Agenda Item 4. Open Discussion on Species Status

Clipped Chinook salmon (fall-run sized/late fall-run sized) were observed at the SWP and CVP on 12/19, 12/22, 12/24 & 12/25. The combined loss for these runs was 27.8 Chinook Salmon.

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 12/28/22. 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 12/27/22 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 12/29/22. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by COB Friday 12/30/22 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, 1/3/23, immediately following the Joint Operations & Outlook 9 a.m. meeting.