



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 1/3/23 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 experienced heavy rain and mountain snow through 1/3/23. Additional storms are expected to arrive Wednesday and continue through the week with the potential for flooding. The Shasta Basin and Sierra Nevada mountains are expected to receive approximately 13.5 inches of precipitation, and Sacramento Valley floors are expecting approximately 3-4 inches of precipitation near Sacramento based on the six-day forecast.

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 with the possibility of increases due to side flow. Releases from Keswick Dam may increase to manage for increases in side flows.

Sacramento River flows at Freeport are 70,000 cfs, ranging from 40,000 – 90,000 cfs.

San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are expected to range between 7,000 cfs - 10,000 cfs through the week.

Feather River releases from Oroville Dam are currently at 950 cfs with no expected changes this week.

American River releases from Nimbus Dam are currently at 25,000 cfs with the possibility of variation due to flood management. Releases may increase to manage for flood and increased side flows.

Stanislaus River releases from Goodwin Dam are currently at 400 cfs and recently released a peak flow of 3,000 cfs due to increased precipitation and side flow. Releases have the possibility of variation due to side flow management.

Jones Pumping Plant exports are currently at 3,500 cfs and are expected to range between 2,700 cfs - 4,200 cfs this week.

QWEST flow values are expected to range between 2,500 cfs – 7,000 cfs.

Rio Vista flows are expected to range between 73,000 – 92,000 cfs this week.

The tidal cycle is approaching a stronger spring tide with the full moon on 1/6/23, leading to higher water levels in the Delta.

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.
- OMR Management Season (PA 4.10.5.10.1, COA 8.3.2): Onset of OMR Management season began on 1/1/23 due to the exceedance of the 5% threshold for the winter-run Chinook salmon population presence within the Delta. Old and Middle River (OMR) flows cannot be more negative than -5,000 cfs on a 14-day average. Additional restrictions and changes to operations may be required per the PA and the CDFW Incidental Take Permit (ITP- COA 8.3.2).
- 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 Mid- and Late-season Natural Winter-run Chinook Salmon Daily Loss Threshold (COA 8.6.3): From 1/1/23 – 1/31/23, 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 0.00635% of the winter-run Chinook salmon JPE. If the threshold is exceeded (loss >2.84), 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) 1/3/23.

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 YOY 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: 59-75% Last week: 75-90%	Current: 25-40% Last week: 10-25%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 85-95% Last week: 90-99%	Current: 5-15% 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

Salvage Update:

Chinook Salmon -Clipped

Clipped late fall run-sized fish were observed at the SWP and CVP. Clipped winter run-sized fish were observed at the SWP and CVP. Clipped fall run-sized fish were observed at the CVP. Non-clipped fish were included with clipped fish if a CWT was detected and reported.

Chinook Salmon -Non-Clipped

Non-clipped late fall run-sized fish were observed at the SWP and CVP. Non-clipped winter run-sized fish were observed at the CVP only during this period, with a loss estimate of 17.68 fish for 1/1/23, which exceeds the daily maximum loss threshold of 2.84 (based on the interim JPE of 44,690) for the month of January, per CDFW ITP Condition COA 8.6.3.

The winter-run size fish collected on 12/17 and 12/18 were genetically identified as spring-run Chinook. Winter run-sized fish collected on 1/1/23 are undergoing analysis and results are expected this week.

Steelhead

Clipped Steelhead were detected at the CVP facility. Non-Clipped Steelhead were detected at SWP and CVP.

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 1/4/23. 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 1/3/23 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 1/5/23. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by COB Friday 1/6/23 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, 1/10/23, immediately following the Joint Operations & Outlook 9 a.m. meeting.