



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 1/17/23 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

Following a stretch of precipitation, the Central Valley is transitioning to drier conditions over the next 8-14 days. Below normal air temperatures are expected. There is potential for minimal precipitation in the Sierra Nevada range.

Clear Creek releases from Whiskeytown Dam remain at 200 cfs, with spillway releases occurring due to recent precipitation. Variable releases may range up to 2,000 cfs through the week.

Sacramento River releases from Keswick Dam are at 4,050 cfs with the possibility of variation due to side flow and decreased releases through the week.

Sacramento River flows at Freeport are approximately 80,000 cfs. Flows may decrease through the week but are expected to remain above 50,000 cfs.

San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are approximately 18,400 cfs and may reach up to 24,000 cfs through the week.

Flows through the Yolo Bypass are approximately 69,000 cfs.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 4,500 cfs and will increase to 8,300 cfs today with the potential to reach 9,500 cfs on 1/18/23 depending on San Joaquin River flows.

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 10,000 cfs and are expected to decrease through the week, potentially reaching below 8,000 cfs.

Stanislaus River releases from Goodwin Dam are currently at 1,950 cfs and are anticipated to decrease through the week.

The Delta outflow index is approximately 172,000 cfs with potential to remain above 100,000 cfs this week.

Jones Pumping Plant exports are currently at 3,500 cfs and are expected to vary through the week.

QWEST flow values are approximately +36,000 cfs. Flows are expected to vary throughout the week but remain above +20,000 cfs.

Rio Vista flows are approximately 136,000 cfs and will likely remain above 100,000 cfs this week.

The tidal cycle is approaching a spring tide ahead of the new moon on 1/21/23, coinciding with a King Tide from 1/21/23 – 1/22/23.

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 juvenile production estimate (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 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) 1/17/23.

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: 49-65% Last week: 54-70%	Current: 35-50% Last week: 30-45%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-1%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 75-90% Last week: 80-95%	Current: 10-25% Last week: 5-20%	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: 88-94% Last week: 88-98%	Current: 5-10% Last week: 1-10%	Current: 1-2% Last week: 1-2%

Agenda Item 3. Open Discussion on Species Status

Salvage Update:

Chinook Salmon – Clipped

Clipped fall run-sized, late fall run-sized, and winter run-sized Chinook salmon were detected at the SWP and CVP facilities between 1/10/23 – 1/16/23.

Chinook Salmon – Non-Clipped

Wild (non-clipped) fall run-sized Chinook salmon were detected at the CVP between 1/10/23 – 1/16/23.

Wild (non-clipped) late fall run-sized Chinook salmon were detected at the CVP between 1/10/23 – 1/16/23.

Chinook Salmon – Temporary protocol change

The SWP facility is working with federal and state agencies to develop updated salvage protocols and will not be euthanizing natural-origin Chinook salmon that enter the facility as per a prior announcement. This was confirmed to SaMT members by a DWR representative via email on 1/19/23.

Steelhead

Clipped Steelhead were detected at the CVP and SWP facilities between 1/10/23 – 1/16/23. Non-clipped Steelhead were detected at the CVP and SWP facilities between 1/10/23 – 1/16/23.

Operations

No reduced counts or sampling outages were reported between 1/10/23 – 1/16/23.

Agenda Item 4. 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 1/18/23.

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 1/17/23 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 1/19/23. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by COB Friday 1/20/23 and can be found at [CDFW's Water Project Operations webpage](#).

Agenda Item 5. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

The SaMT members discussed the loss equation for fish that are killed in regards to the ITP and the PA. Loss for both the CVP and SWP is calculated based on the equations laid out in Attachment 6 of the ITP.

The Winter Run Project Work Team has made a final recommendation for the JPE, and NMFS will be issuing a letter likely this week adopting the recommended JPE of 49,924 natural winter-run.

Agenda Item 6. Next Meeting

Action Item: Jeff Onsted, DWR, to share information on the Skinner Fish Facility Temporary Protocol with all SaMT members. [Complete]

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 1/24/23, immediately following the Joint Operations & Outlook 9 a.m. meeting.