



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 2/14/23 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

There is a minor chance of precipitation around the North Coast this week with dry conditions predicted for the Sacramento Valley. Cooler air temperatures are expected through late week with an eventual warming trend towards the tail end of the week.

Clear Creek releases from Whiskeytown Dam remain at 200 cfs.

Sacramento River releases from Keswick Dam remain at 3,250 cfs.

Sacramento River flows at Freeport are approximately 19,400 cfs.

San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are approximately 4,200 cfs and are expected to decline through the week.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 3,500 and may decrease in order to meet the -5,000 OMR objective.

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 4,000 cfs with potential to decrease this week.

Stanislaus River releases from Goodwin Dam are currently at 200 cfs.

The Delta outflow index is approximately 18,700 cfs and expected to remain below 20,000 cfs.

Jones Pumping Plant exports are currently at 4,200 cfs.

QWEST flow values are approximately +2,300 cfs. Flows may decrease this week but are expected to remain above +1,000 cfs.

X2 is currently upstream of Port Chicago.

Rio Vista flows are approximately 15,000 – 16,000 cfs.

The tidal cycle approaching a spring tide ahead of the new moon on 2/19/23.

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) of 49,924 fish.
 - 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 584.11). If 50% of the threshold is exceeded (loss \geq 292.06), 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 438.08), 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 ≥ 229.15). If 50% of the threshold is exceeded (loss ≥ 114.58), 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 ≥ 171.86), 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): DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval 8.6.3 of the ITP. The ITP Daily Loss Threshold for February is loss of older juvenile Chinook salmon from CVP and SWP greater than 0.00991% of the winter-run Chinook salmon JPE (loss >4.95). If the loss threshold is exceeded, 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.
 - Amendment to COA 8.6.3 in effect as of 1/20/2023: In water year 2023, Permittee shall restrict exports in response to the initial length-at-date identification of natural older juvenile Chinook salmon and the thresholds described above. If genetic analysis of an individual natural older juvenile Chinook salmon observed in salvage at the SWP or CVP indicates that it is not CHNWR, that individual shall not count toward the daily loss threshold and continued export restrictions under this Condition of Approval are not required if the daily loss threshold has consequently not been met. All genetic analyses shall be conducted using CDFW-approved genetic methods.

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) 2/14/23.

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: 15-30% Last week: 25-35%	Current: 60-80% Last week: 55-75%	Current: 5-10% Last week: 0-10%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 53-70% Last week: 58-75%	Current: 30-45% Last week: 25-40%	Current: 0-2% Last week: 0-2%
YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: 95-99% Last week: 98-100%	Current: 1-5% Last week: 0-2%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
Natural origin steelhead	Current: 60-70% Last week: 65-75%	Current: 25-30% Last week: 20-25%	Current: 5-10% Last week: 5-10%

Agenda Item 3. Open Discussion on Species Status

Salvage Update:

The seasonal (10/1/22 – present) salvage totals of all non-clipped length-at-date winter-run Chinook salmon is 21 (loss = 50.91).

The seasonal (10/1/22 – present) salvage totals of all non-clipped length-at-date spring-run Chinook salmon is 4 (loss = 2.54).

The seasonal (10/1/22 – present) salvage total of all non-clipped Steelhead is 48 (loss = 120.24).

Operations:

The federal facility reduced counts from 1600-1800 on 2/8 for vegetation management, and on 2/12 from 0800-1400 hours due to staffing issues.

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 2/15/23. 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 2/14/23 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 2/16/23. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by COB Friday 2/17/23 and can be found at [CDFW’s Water Project Operations](#) webpage.

Agenda Item 5. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

Discussion on Inclusion of DSM2

SaMT members discussed the possibility of incorporating DSM2. It has not previously been run this season due to the amount of work taken on by the water operators and modelers. SaMT has not expressed a strong need for it during WY 2023, but it can be implemented if the Team decides to do so.

Members expressed interest in learning more about DSM2 through a presentation if available, but Reclamation does not have plans to develop a presentation at this time unless there is significant interest and support for it.

Agenda Item 6. Next Meeting

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 2/21/23, immediately following the Joint Operations & Outlook 9 a.m. meeting.