



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 6/6/23 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 is shifting from a recent warming trend to a cooling period that is expected to bring moisture and cloud cover with chances of thunderstorms and rain in the Shasta Basin and Sierra Nevada range. Little-to-no precipitation is expected in the valley. Cooler temperatures are expected to last through the weekend.

Clear Creek releases from Whiskeytown Dam are currently at 150 cfs. A pulse is planned to begin on 6/15/23 at Clear Creek with additional details to be shared at the 6/13/23 SaMT meeting.

Sacramento River releases from Keswick Dam are currently at 9,000 cfs to accommodate storage management.

Sacramento River flows at Freeport are approximately 30,500 cfs with the possibility of increasing to the mid-30,000 cfs range this week.

San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are approximately 27,000 cfs.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are currently at 5,700 cfs. Flows will drop to approximately 3,700 cfs on 6/7/23 to allow for dive activities at Skinner Fish Facility.

Feather River releases from Oroville Dam are increasing from 6,000 cfs to 8,000 cfs on 6/6/23.

American River releases from Nimbus Dam are currently at 9,000 cfs. Inflows are variable and storage management is ongoing.

Stanislaus River releases from Goodwin Dam are currently at 1,500 cfs. Storage conditions are increasing with higher flows into the reservoir.

The Delta outflow index is approximately 50,000 cfs.

X2 is upstream of Martinez (60 km) but could drift slightly this week with receding tide.

Jones Pumping Plant exports are at 900 cfs for maintenance activities and will return to 4,200 cfs later today. Maintenance is scheduled to occur next week and exports will drop to zero cfs during business hours and before returning to 4,200 cfs upon maintenance completion on 6/16/23.

QWEST flow values are approximately +25,000 cfs.

Indexed OMR is approximately +7,000 cfs and expected to range between +5,000 cfs and +8,000 cfs this week.

The tidal cycle is transitioning to a last quarter neap cycle on 6/10/23 after the recent full moon on 6/3/23.

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:

- The Interim Operations Plan (IOP) is currently in effect resulting from a court order on 2/28/2023 and will determine operations for the remainder of calendar year 2023. Reclamation shall adopt the following provisions of the SWP ITP:
 - 8.5.2 Larval and Juvenile Delta Smelt Protection
 - 8.6.1 Winter-run Single-year Loss Threshold
 - 8.6.2 Early-season Natural Winter-run Chinook Salmon Discrete Daily Loss Threshold
 - 8.6.3 Mid- and Late-season Natural Winter-run Chinook Salmon Daily Loss Threshold
 - 8.6.4 Daily Spring-run Chinook Salmon Hatchery Surrogate Loss Threshold
 - 8.7 OMR Flexibility During Delta Excess Conditions
 - 8.8 End of OMR Management

- **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 End of OMR Management (COA 8.8):** From 01/01/2022 – 06/30/2022, DWR will operate the SWP to ensure that entrainment and take of Covered Species is minimized during the OMR Management Season through 06/30/2022 or when the following species-specific off-ramps occur:
 - More than 95% of WR and SR have migrated past Chipps Island as determined by SaMT, AND
 - Daily average water temperature at Mossdale exceeds 22.22oC for 7 non-consecutive days in June, AND
 - Daily average water temperature at Prisoner’s Point exceeds 22.2oC for 7 non-consecutive days in June.
- **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 -2,500 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 229.15). If 50% of the threshold is exceeded (loss \geq 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 \geq 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 -2,500 cfs.

- ITP Daily Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Hatchery Surrogate Loss Threshold (COA 8.6.4):** From 2/1/2023 – 6/30/2023, DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval 8.6.4 of the ITP. The ITP Hatchery Surrogate Loss Threshold for WY 2023 will include two fall-run release groups from Coleman National Fish Hatchery (CNFH), two spring-run release groups from Feather River Fish Hatchery (FRFH) and one fall-run release group from Nimbus Fish Hatchery (NFH). If cumulative loss from CVP and SWP is greater than 0.25% for any release group (FRFH Group 1: loss > 1,828.64; FRFH Group 2: loss > 1,821.47; FRFH Group 3: loss > 2,204,70, CNFH Group 1: loss > 1,002.24, CNFH Group 2: loss > 5,871.92, NFH Group 1: loss > 534.62), 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 -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) 6/7/23.

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: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-2%	Current: 99-100% Last week: 98-100%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 1-5% Last week: 5-10%	Current: 5-14% Last week: 5-20%	Current: 85-90% Last week: 75-85%
YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 100% Last week: 100%
Natural origin steelhead	Current: 5-10% Last week: 5-10%	Current: 15-30% Last week: 10-25%	Current: 75-85% Last week: 70-80%

Agenda Item 3. Open Discussion on Species Status

Salvage Update for 5/29/23 – 6/4/23:

Sacramento Splittail

High numbers of Sacramento splittail were observed (1,000,000+ at the federal facility; 600,000 at the state facility) during the reporting period. This led to some reduced counts at the SWP facility.

Chinook Salmon – Non-Clipped

High numbers of unclipped spring-run-sized (1,635 fish) and fall-run-sized (1,748 fish) Chinook salmon were salvaged.

No hatchery fish were observed during the reporting period.

Steelhead

Steelhead were observed at both the federal and state facilities (salvage of 19 fish).

Reduced counts were reported each day of the reporting period with the exception of 6/4/23 at the state facility.

White Sturgeon

A white sturgeon was saved for identification by a biologist but died due to an injury during the verification process.

One unclipped fish from the Tracy Facility was observed with red VIE tag.

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 6/7/23. 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 6/6/23 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 6/8/23. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by COB Friday 6/9/23 and can be found at [CDFW's Water Project Operations](#) webpage.

Agenda Item 5. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

N/A

Agenda Item 6. Next Meeting

The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 6/13/23, immediately following the Joint Operations & Outlook 9 a.m. meeting.