



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 6/27/23 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 seeing dry conditions with hot weather expected to return by mid-week as temperatures continue increasing through the weekend. The Sierra Nevada range may receive precipitation early in the week.

Clear Creek releases from Whiskeytown Dam are at 150 cfs.

Sacramento River releases from Keswick Dam are currently at 9,500 cfs to accommodate storage management.

Sacramento River flows at Freeport are approximately 15,200 cfs and are expected to decrease through the week.

Yolo Bypass flows are approximately 600 cfs.

San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are approximately 13,000 cfs and expected to decrease to approximately 12,000 cfs by the end of the week.

Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are at 1,000 cfs today, and will be 0 cfs for the next two days to allow for herbicide treatment. Exports are expected to increase back up to 1,000 cfs post-treatment, and up to 6,680 cfs after that.

Feather River releases from Oroville Dam are approximately 2,500 cfs and are expected to decrease to 2,300 cfs today (6/27/23).

American River releases from Nimbus Dam are currently at 4,000 cfs.

Stanislaus River releases from Goodwin Dam are currently at 1,500 cfs with flows expected to decrease to 800 cfs on Friday for recreational safety over the holiday weekend with a return to 1,500 cfs on 7/4/23. Releases will again decrease for recreational purposes during the following weekend in the same pattern.

The Delta outflow index is approximately 21,400 cfs and is expected to decrease through the week for storage management.

X2 is upstream of Martinez (66 km).

Jones Pumping Plant exports are approximately 4,200 cfs.

QWEST flow values are approximately +9,600 cfs.

Rio Vista flows are approximately 8,300 cfs.

OMRI is approximately +900 cfs and is expected to decrease into the negative range starting 7/1/23.

The tidal cycle is emerging from a neap tide with the first quarter moon on 6/27/23. The full moon on 7/3/23 will bring a spring tide.

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 reopened on 6/23/23 for the summer months as flows have dropped below 20,000 cfs at Freeport. Gates were previously closed from 11/28/22 to 6/22/23 to meet LTO Proposed Action.
- **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 1/1/23 – 6/30/23, DWR will operate the SWP to ensure that entrainment and take of Covered Species is minimized during the OMR Management Season through 6/30/23 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 22.22°C for 7 non-consecutive days in June, AND
 - Daily average water temperature at Prisoner’s Point exceeds 22.2°C 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 ≥ 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 -2,500 cfs.
- **ITP Daily Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Hatchery Surrogate Loss Threshold (COA 8.6.4):** From 2/1/23 – 6/30/23, 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) 6/28/23.

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% Last week: 0%	Current: 100% Last week: 100%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0-5%	Current: 100% Last week: 95-100%
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: 1-2% Last week: 1-3%	Current: 1-8% Last week: 4-12%	Current: 90-98% Last week: 85-95%

Agenda Item 3. Open Discussion on Species Status

Salvage Update for 6/19/23 – 6/25/23:

The federal facility reported observing unusually high numbers of carp in recent days.

Spring-run-sized (72 fish) and fall-run-sized (1,258 fish) Chinook salmon were observed during the reporting period.

Hatchery spring-run (6 fish) and fall-run (4 fish) Chinook salmon were observed.

No Steelhead were observed at either facility during the reporting period.

The SWP facility reported reduced counts on 6/19/23, 6/23/23, and 6/24/23. The CVP facility reported reduced counts on 6/25/23.

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 6/28/23. 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 6/27/23 for review by SaMT members with comments due COB Thursday 6/29/23. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by COB Friday 6/30/23 and can be found at [CDFW's Water Project Operations](#) webpage.

Agenda Item 5. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

SaMT members had the opportunity to share suggestions for improvements to the SaMT meetings and dissemination of information for the next Water Year. Reclamation requested that the weekly salvage report includes calculating the separate December to March, and April to mid-June steelhead loss totals. CDFW agreed to make these requested changes to the salvage report.

Agenda Item 6. Next Meeting

This meeting concludes the Water Year 2023 season. SaMT members can expect to receive a new meeting series invitation closer to the start of the upcoming season, tentatively scheduled to begin the first week of October 2023.