

Water Operations Management Team Notes

Ad Hoc Meeting

Water Year 2025 – April 1, 2025

Members Attending

- Reclamation: Present
- USFWS: Present
- CDFW: Present
- NMFS: Present
- DWR: Present
- SWRCB: Present

Purpose of Ad Hoc Meeting

To discuss weekly assessments prepared by Reclamation and OMRI protections for WR that are needed.

Discussion Items

Sub-Directors met this morning and recommended convening this ad hoc WOMT meeting.

WOMT to discuss OMRI operational requirement to protect winter-run salmon in light of exceeding 100% annual threshold for hatchery WR.

Reclamation prepared a risk assessment for winter-run salmon showing no population level benefits for an OMRI more positive than -5,000 cfs. Therefore, Reclamation recommends OMRI no more negative than -5,000 cfs.

- DWR agreed and supported Reclamation's assessment for hatchery winter-run entrainment risk. DWR recommended -5000 OMR for the week. DWR pointed out that there has been no winter-run salvage (hatchery or natural winter run) since 3/24 pending an outstanding clipped winter-run sized salmon fish that was salvaged at the SWP on 3/30. DWR confirmed after WOMT that fish was not a hatchery winter-run. DWR also noted that the Tillotson winter-run model predicted modest salvage but the error ranged from 0 to 200 loss. Finally, DWR noted that survival has been high this year, suggesting that an additional 50k hatchery winter-run made it to the Delta than estimated by the hatchery winter run jpe. DWR believed these reasons supported the -5000 OMR recommendation.

CDFW stated fishery models show benefits to continuing with a -3,500 cfs OMRI operation. There are even more benefits to a -2,500 cfs OMRI operation. Degradation of benefits occurs at a -5,000 cfs OMRI operation. CDFW recommends holding at -3,500 cfs OMRI.

- NMFS stated there have been no significant changes to last week's conditions, so there is no reason to change NMFS' previous recommendation from OMR no more negative than -3,500 cfs.
- No consensus reached at WOMT.

Action Items

None

Elevation Items

Directors to meet and decide appropriate OMRI level for WR and DS protection.