



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 5/20/25 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).

Participants

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Kearns & West (K&W)

Announcements

- Ramesh Gautam, DWR, will be taking over DWR's Operations updates from Bryant Giorgi, DWR.

Relevant Actions & Triggers

- **Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate operations (PA 4.10.5.3):** See Outlook and Assessment for more information.

- SWP ITP/CVP PA Winter-run Chinook Salmon Annual Loss Thresholds (COA 8.4.3/PA 3.7.4.5.3):** DWR and Reclamation will operate Banks Pumping Plant and Jones Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval (COA) 8.4.3/PA 3.7.4.5.3 of the SWP ITP/SWP and CVP PA. These values are based on the final juvenile production estimate (JPE).
 - The natural-origin Winter-run Chinook salmon Annual Loss Threshold for this year is based on the initial length-at-date (LAD) identification of natural-origin older juvenile Chinook salmon and the thresholds described above. If genetic analysis of natural-origin older juvenile Chinook salmon observed in salvage at the SWP or CVP subsequently confirms that any given Chinook salmon is not genetically identified as a CHNWR that fish will not count towards the loss threshold. This threshold is loss of natural-origin winter-run Chinook salmon from the CVP and SWP greater than or equal to 0.5% of the winter-run Chinook salmon JPE (loss threshold = $98,893 \times 0.5\% = 494.47$). If cumulative loss of natural-origin CHNWR in a brood year exceeds 50% of the annual loss threshold (loss > 247.24), then Permittee shall, in coordination with Reclamation, adjust south Delta exports to achieve a 7-day average of the OMR index no more negative than -3,500 cfs for 7 consecutive days. If a CHNWR is salvaged during the 7-day action, the action will be extended for another seven days. At the conclusion of the action, Permittee, in coordination with Reclamation shall revert to the weekly distributed loss threshold until the 75% threshold is reached or throughout the end of the OMR Management season. If the 75% loss threshold (loss > 370.85) is exceeded AND the Winter-Run Chinook salmon Machine Learning Model predicts that an OMR index of -2,500 cfs would shift the model output to a classification of CHNWR absence with a minimum probability of absence prediction of 0.559 for 1 of 30 sub-models for any of the 7 most recent prediction days, then a 7-day average OMR index of -2,500 cfs will be operated to for 7 consecutive days. Thereafter, each winter-run observed in salvage will trigger a 7-day OMR index of -2,500 cfs for 7 consecutive days IF the Winter-Run Chinook salmon Machine Learning Model predicts that an OMR index of -2,500 cfs would shift the model output to a classification of CHNWR absence with a minimum probability of absence prediction of 0.559 for 1 of 30 sub-models for any of the 7 most recent prediction days.
 - The hatchery-origin Chinook salmon Annual Loss Threshold for this year is loss of both LSNFH and Battle Creek clipped CWT 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 ≥ 162.41 and loss > 3.44, respectively). If the 50% and 75% thresholds are exceeded, the same process will occur as what occurs for the natural-origin winter-run Chinook salmon (as discussed in above bullet).
 - The final JPE was distributed on 1/10/25 for WY 2025.

- **SWP ITP and CVP PA Winter-run Weekly Loss Thresholds (COA 8.4.4/PA 3.7.4.5.4):** DWR and Reclamation will operate Banks Pumping Plant and Jones Pumping Plant consistent with COA 8.4.4/PA 3.7.4.5.4 of the SWP ITP/SWP and CVP PA. These values are based on the product of the weekly percentage of natural-origin CHNWR present in the Delta, scaled to 100% (Table 4, Column E of the SWP ITP), and 50% of the natural-origin CHNWR annual loss threshold (COA 8.4.3/PA 3.7.4.5.3). The final JPE Memo was issued on 1/10/25.
 - The weekly loss threshold for the remainder of the season is provided below:
 - 4/2/25 – 6/30/25: 0 fish
 - If the 7-day rolling sum of loss exceeds the above thresholds in any given week, the required response is to reduce SWP and CVP exports to reach an average OMR index of no more negative than –3,500 cfs for seven consecutive days. DWR and Reclamation shall restrict exports in response to initial LAD identification of natural-origin older juvenile Chinook salmon. If genetic analysis of an individual natural-origin older juvenile Chinook salmon observed in salvage at the SWP or CVP indicates that it is not a winter-run, that individual shall not count toward the loss threshold and continued export restrictions under the PA or COA are not required if the weekly loss threshold has consequently not been met.
- **SWP ITP Spring Delta Outflow Implementation (COA 8.12.1):** Permittee shall reduce exports from April 1 to May 31 each year to achieve the SWP proportional share (COA 8.7) of export reductions established by the ratio of Vernalis flow (cfs) to combined SWP and CVP exports, scaled by water year type, to provide incidental spring outflow.
 - In a critical water year type, the ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 1:1
 - In a dry water year type, the ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 2:1
 - In a below normal year, the ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 3:1
 - In an above normal or wet year, the ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 4:1
 - The current San Joaquin Valley Index Water Year Type is Below Normal ([CDEC](#)); therefore, the ratio of San Joaquin flow at Vernalis to exports is 3:1.; therefore ratio of San Joaquin flow at Vernalis to exports is 3:1.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations

- SaMT reviewed and updated the Outlook document. The updated Outlook document will be shared with SaMT via SharePoint link by close of business (COB) 5/21/25. Additional details and operations context shared at the 5/20/25 meeting include:
 - Sacramento River releases at Keswick Dam are 14,000 cfs on 5/20/2025 and are scheduled to decrease starting on 5/24/25, tentatively holding at 10,000 cfs once the ramp down in releases is complete.
 - Clear Creek releases at Whiskeytown will decrease this week to 200 cfs.
 - Feather River releases are at 1,700 cfs as of 5/20/2025.
 - Sacramento River flows at Freeport were approximately 16,300 cfs as of 5/20/25.
 - San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis were approximately 2,352 cfs on 5/20/25.
 - Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports remain at 600 cfs.
 - Jones Pumping Plant is currently exporting 3,500 cfs as of 5/20/25 and is scheduled to decrease to 3,200 cfs beginning on 5/22/25. Exports will then remain at 3,200 cfs for some time.
 - Delta Outflow was approximately 14,300 cfs as of 5/20/25. The 7-day average is 17,700 cfs.
 - QWEST was +8,087 cfs on 5/20/25. The 7-day average is +2,988 cfs.
 - Rio Vista flows are approximately 14,400 cfs with a range of 12,000 to 15,000 cfs.
 - CVP share of San Luis Reservoir storage is approximately 704 TAF.
 - Total storage of the San Luis Reservoir is approximately 1.4 MAF.
 - Questions and Comments
 - NMFS asked whether the OMRI values provided by DWR were index values for 5/19/25.
 - DWR confirmed that this is correct.

Part 2: Open Discussion on Species Status

- N/A

Part 3. Live Edit Assessments

Natural Spring-Run Weekly Risk Assessment

- SaMT reviewed the Natural-origin Spring-Run Weekly Risk Assessment.
- Questions and Comments
 - N/A

Assessment for CVP and SWP Delta Operations on ESA and CESA-listed Species

- SaMT reviewed the Assessment for CVP and SWP Delta Operations on ESA and CESA-listed Species.
- Questions and Comments
 - DWR asked for clarification on the prediction model used for Figure 6 in the assessment document.
 - Reclamation responded that the figure represents results from the Tillotson Machine Learning Model.
 - DWR requested access to these assessments, as they are a new member of SaMT.

Part 4. Additional Considerations/Discussion

Spring Delta Outflow

- NMFS asked about the following language: *"PA Section 3.7.5 Spring Delta Outflow (Table 3-11) shows SWP and CVP Foregone Exports of 175 TAF from March 1 - May 31, for the first 2 years of implementation. Modeling assumptions in Appendix F (page 48) include CVP export cuts of 147 TAF and SWP 117.5 TAF."*
 - NMFS would like to discuss what the foregone exports should be this year (Above Normal) and what to expect for next year (WY-dependent). Do export reductions follow what was modeled, or what's shown in the table in the PA?
 - The relevant operators from Reclamation were not present at the meeting to facilitate discussion for this topic request. The topic will be revisited at a future SaMT meeting.

Items to Raise to WOMT

1. N/A

Next SaMT Meeting

- The next Weekly Operations Meeting will be on Tuesday, 5/27/25. If needed, SaMT will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

Action Items

- Chase Ehlo, Reclamation, to provide document access to Ramesh Gautam, DWR.