



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 6/10/25 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

- USFWS had several leadership employees take the resignation option implemented by DOGE. Due to limited staffing, USFWS management recommends that the USFWS SaMT representative attend SaMT meetings only when there is a take exceedance at the SWP and CVP facilities in order to manage the limited staff capacity.
 - Adam Nanninga, the current USFWS rep, will review the email notifications and weekly notes to help determine if attendance and more active participation is necessary.

- USFWS would not participate in raising items to WOMT.
- CDFW expressed concern about the process for gathering consensus on topics such as young-of-year (YOY) surrogates. USFWS requested that the relevant information continue to be sent via email for them to review.

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.

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) 6/11/25. Additional details and operations context shared at the 6/10/25 meeting include:
 - Keswick Dam releases will increase from 9,000 cfs on 6/10/25 to 10,000 cfs on 6/11/25.
 - Clear Creek at Whiskeytown will begin a pulse flow on 6/12/25. Releases will reach 500 cfs by 6/13/25 and will gradually decrease after 6/13/25.
 - Sacramento River flows at Freeport are approximately 12,700 cfs.
 - San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are approximately 2,040 cfs.
 - Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) inflow is 2,200 cfs.
 - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam will decrease from 1,700 cfs to 1,400 beginning on 6/12/25 and will reach 700 cfs by 6/15/25. Releases will then increase to a range of 1,000 to 1,200 cfs starting on 6/16/25.
 - Jones Pumping Plant is currently exporting 2,700 cfs.
 - Delta Outflow is approximately 7,600 cfs.
 - QWEST is +575 cfs. The 7-day average is -1,050 cfs.
 - Rio Vista flows are approximately 8,700 cfs.
 - Delta water quality is the current controlling factor.
 - SWP share of San Luis Reservoir storage is approximately 642 TAF.
 - CVP share of San Luis Reservoir storage is approximately 588 TAF.
 - Total storage of the San Luis Reservoir is approximately 1.23 MAF.
- Questions and Comments
 - CDFW asked for clarification on the current Delta water quality objective.
 - DWR is operating to achieve the Delta Water Quality objectives for Agricultural Beneficial use (Table 2 of D-1641).
 - CDFW asked if this has been applicable ever since Delta water quality has been the controlling factor.
 - DWR responded that this week, they moved from excess condition to balanced condition. Delta water quality has been the primary controlling factor for their operation. They also look at other factors, such as OMRI – 5,000 cfs and habitat protection outflow.

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.
- DWR noted figure corrections in Table 5 regarding genetically-confirmed spring-run Chinook salmon.
- DWR also noted errors found in the CDFW salmon file regarding fork length and run identifications.
- Questions and Comments
 - CDFW asked if DWR had reached out to CDFW management about error corrections.
 - DWR responded that they have not yet contacted them; the errors were discovered shortly before the SaMT meeting.
 - CDFW noted previous discrepancies in fork lengths between CVP summary reports and salvage spreadsheets.
 - DWR will crosscheck these two items.

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
 - N/A

Part 4. Additional Considerations/Discussion

Seasonal Offramping

- Kearns & West solicited recommendations for identifying the end of the SaMT season.
 - CDFW shared that the permits conclude the OMR management season either on the 30th of June each year *or* if temperatures exceed a certain threshold for seven days, offramping can occur before the 30th of June.
 - Mossdale has not yet hit the temperature threshold, so SaMT activities would continue for a minimum of another week from 6/10/25.
 - Due to 6/30/25 falling on a Monday, CDFW recommended a quick seasonal wrap-up during the Water Operations call on 7/1/25 if the management season does last through 6/30/25.

Items to Raise to WOMT

- N/A

Next SaMT Meeting

- The next Weekly Operations Meeting will be on Tuesday, 6/17/25. If needed, SaMT will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

Action Items

- DWR to crosscheck the CVP summary reports against the salvage spreadsheets for discrepancies in fork length figures.