BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 6/24/25 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

- Fish and Water Operations meetings are concluding on 6/24/25.
- SaMT and SMT members are welcome to email feedback for Water Year 2025 (WY25) and suggestions for WY26 to Mia Schiappi and Bethany Taylor.

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 x 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 OMRI 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) 6/25/25. Additional details and operations context shared at the 6/24/25 meeting include:
    - Feather river releases may increase from 4,500 cfs to 8,500 cfs at the end of June to support the Delta Outflow for July.
    - Sacramento River flows at Freeport are approximately 16,434 cfs.
    - San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are approximately 1,037 cfs.

- Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) inflow is 1,400 cfs. Inflow will reduce to 800 cfs on 6/29/25 and then to zero cfs on 6/30/25 to allow for herbicide treatment.
- Nimbus Dam releases will increase on 7/1/25 from 2,500 cfs to a range of 3,500 to 4,000 cfs.
- Goodwin Dam releases will decrease from 1,000 cfs to 700 cfs for the weekend of 6/28 – 6/29/25. Releases will increase on 6/30/25 to a range of 1,000 to 1,500 cfs.
- Jones Pumping Plant is currently exporting 3,200 cfs and are scheduled to increase to 4,200 cfs on 6/29/25 and will remain at that rate.
- Delta Outflow is approximately 10,200 cfs.
- QWEST is +1,151 cfs. The 7-day average is -1,004 cfs.
- Rio Vista flows are approximately 9,300 cfs. The weekly range is 8,500 to 10,500 cfs.
- X2 > 81 km.
- The controlling factor is Delta water quality.
- SWP share of San Luis Reservoir storage is approximately 563 TAF.
- CVP share of San Luis Reservoir storage is approximately 497 TAF.
- Total storage of the San Luis Reservoir is approximately 1.056 MAF.
- Questions and Comments
    - N/A

Part 2: Open Discussion on Species Status

- N/A

Part 3. Live Edit Assessments

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

- The Spring-run Chinook Salmon assessment was circulated via email on 6/23/25 and the assessment on steelhead will be circulated via email on 6/24/25.
- Questions and Comments
    - N/A

Part 4. Additional Considerations/Discussion

- CDWR provided the summary of sacrificed steelhead collected for the special study conducted in April and May to CDFW and NMFS representatives. The additional loss for the season will be increased by +1 for each sacrificed steelhead. The season totals by clip status and month are included in the table below.

Table 1. Summary of Sacrificed Steelhead Collected in April – May 2025

Clip Status	April	May	Total
Wild (non-clipped)	4	3	7
Adipose Clipped	15	1	16

Items to Raise to WOMT

- N/A

Next SaMT Meeting

- The next SaMT meeting will coincide with the start of WY26 in October 2025.

Action Items

- N/A