



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 10/17/23 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. Housekeeping
3. Updates on Water Operations and Biological Conditions
4. Open Discussion on Species Status
5. Live-edit Assessments (Proposed Action Assessment and ITP Risk Assessment)
6. Additional Considerations/Other Topics
7. Next Meeting

Agenda Item 2. Housekeeping

- N/A

Agenda Item 3. Updates on Water Operations and Biological Conditions

- In the next 6 days, there is potential for light showers around the Smith Basin and trace amounts of precipitation along the Sierra Nevada range. The Central Valley will experience a warming trend towards the end of week, with cooler air temperatures predicted for the weekend and into early next week.
- Clear Creek releases from Whiskeytown Dam are at 200 cfs.

- Sacramento River releases from Keswick Dam are currently at 6,100 cfs with the possibility of increases for rice decomposition/field management.
- Feather River releases from Oroville Dam are currently at 2,450 cfs and are expected to remain at this rate through October.
- Sacramento River flows at Freeport are approximately 10,600 cfs with potential to decrease slightly during the week.
- San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are approximately 2,800 cfs and is expected to decrease this week along with scheduled pulse flows.
- Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are at approximately 800 cfs and expected to remain at this level until 10/21/23 or 10/22/23. Exports are scheduled to be at zero cfs on 10/23/23 and 10/24/23 for herbicide application at Clifton Court.
- American River releases from Nimbus Dam are holding at 2,500 cfs.
- Stanislaus River releases from Goodwin Dam are currently following the fall pulse schedule continuing into early November. Releases are currently at 300 cfs and will continue to vary between 300 cfs and 1,500 cfs.
- The Delta outflow index has been between 8,000 cfs to 9,000 cfs to help mitigate fall X2.
- X2 is currently upstream of Collinsville (> 81 km) and operations are challenged with meeting the 80 km requirement due to persistent tidal anomalies.
- Jones Pumping Plant exports are currently at 2,600 cfs and are expected to decrease to 1,800 cfs on 10/18/23.
- QWEST flow values currently range from approximately +4,000 to +5,000 cfs.
- OMRI is at approximately -2,000 cfs and is expected to remain in this flow range until CCF pauses operations on 10/23/23.
- The tidal cycle is transitioning from a spring tide to a neap tide. The new moon occurred on 10/14/23. The first quarter moon will occur on 10/21/23.
- 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):** DCC gates closed on 10/16/23 and will reopen on 10/20/23. The scheduled pattern to open the gates on Fridays to allow for recreational activity followed by a closing of the gates on Mondays is expected to continue through October 2023. Gate operations are still targeting the X2 /Collinsville salinity requirement.

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) 10/18/23.
- SaMT discussed Fish Monitoring Gear Efficiency/Disruptions as addressed within the Operations Outlook and updated accordingly.
- American River Carcass Surveys have begun. American River is currently targeting 62 F at Hazel Ave and not to exceed 65 F at Watt Ave. The power bypass was approved and will begin targeting 56 at Watt Ave November 1.

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: 99-100% Last week: 99-100%	Current: 0-1% Last week: 0-1%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 100% Last week: 100%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: NA Last week: NA	Current: NA Last week: NA	Current: NA Last week: NA
Natural origin steelhead	Current: 100% Last week: 100%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%

Agenda Item 4. Open Discussion on Species Status

Salvage Update

- No protected fish species were salvaged during the previous week.
- The CVP facility experienced two outages this week: one occurred on 10/11/23 for salvage maintenance; the second was a power outage on 10/15/23 that halted salvage operations for 10 minutes.

Agenda Item 5. 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 10/18/23. The final assessment will be posted to [Reclamation's Delta Monitoring Workgroup](#) webpage.

ITP Risk Assessment

- The ITP Risk Assessment will not be distributed until the first Tuesday of November. Past ITP Risk Assessments can be found at [CDFW's Water Project Operations](#) webpage.

Agenda Item 6. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

- The fish facilities unit experienced technical issues with uploading the access database for salvage to the FTP website. SacPAS and the FTP site will not be updated until the issue is resolved, which could be delayed into next week. For locating salvage numbers, SaMT members are instructed to use the online calculator or contact Kyle Griffiths, CDFW, (walter.griffiths@wildlife.ca.gov) directly with urgent salvage-related queries. Another SaMT member reported issues with opening the access database; Griffiths will include this information in his communications with IT.

Agenda Item 7. Next Meeting

- The next SaMT meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10/24/23 on Microsoft Teams.