



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 10/24/23 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

- The Fish and Water Operations Outlook document was reviewed. Please refer to the Operations Outlook, PA Assessment, and ITP Risk Assessment documents.
- Sacramento River flows at Freeport will remain variable until rice decomposition is complete.
- San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis will decrease this week to 1,500 cfs before increasing for the next pulse flow.

- Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are offline for herbicide application through 10/27/23. After application work is completed, exports will remain at 300 cfs through October.
- Banks Pumping Plant is offline from 10/24 - 10/27 for maintenance.
- Release configurations on the American River are being managed for water quality.
- Stanislaus River releases from Goodwin Dam are currently following the fall pulse schedule continuing into early November.
- Suisun Marsh gate action has completed.
- The persisting tidal anomaly was significant over the weekend, pushing salts/X2 further inland. Weekend precipitation and runoff influence on X2 position is uncertain.
- QWEST will remain positive this week but will be less positive while the DCC gates are closed.
- 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):** See Outlook and Assessment for more information.

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) 10/25/23.
- 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. The carcass surveys have observed 10 pre-spawn mortalities which is about 67% pre-spawn mortality in the first week of the carcass survey. No redds have been observed yet and only a few partially spawned female have been observed.

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.
- Changes were made recently to streamline the salvage report. A separate row to track winter-run LAD fish was added. These are separately calculated and not included in the other fish totals.
- Wild Steelhead were divided into categories with date ranges:
 - 10/1/23 to 11/30/23
 - 12/1/23 to 3/31/23
 - 4/1/23 to 6/15/23
- Kevin Reece, DWR, to share proposed footnote language intended to differentiate the genetic results for fall and late-fall categories. Language will be used for internal clarification purposes only.

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 10/25/23. The final assessment will be posted to [Reclamation's Delta Monitoring Workgroup](#) webpage.

ITP Risk Assessment

- The ITP Risk Assessment will be distributed next week (10/31/23). Past ITP Risk Assessments can be found at [CDFW's Water Project Operations](#) webpage.

Agenda Item 6. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

Knights Landing Catch Index

- SaMT members discussed the option to remove the Knights Landing Catch Index (KLCI) from the Knights Landing datasheet posted on the CalFish website at the risk that data be misinterpreted if the KLCI value is different in the SaMT notes, or to let it remain on the website as no previous issues have arisen. SaMT decided to keep the data on the website, but Nick Bauer (Bauer) CDFW and Kristin Begun (NMFS) will coordinate to update the equation to accurately reflect variations in cone operations.
- Project leads will be sending Knights Landing datato Nick Bauer, CDFW, when fish are caught in the Knights Landing RST. Nick Bauer and Crystal Rigby, CDFW, will coordinate internally in order to ensure the KLCI data is being sent to Reclamation daily.

Meeting Notes

- SaMT members were informed that the weekly meeting notes will be streamlined going forward to omit redundancies between other SaMT documents.

Temperature Criteria

- The inclusion of temperature criteria is new for WY 2024.
- Calculation of the daily high average and the daily minimum average water temperatures by CDFW are no longer necessary to include in the Outlook document as this information does not inform decision making within the scope of SaMT. The various watershed teams can discuss this data in more details in their individual meetings.

Risk Assessment

- CDFW will be starting the Risk Assessment the week of 10/30/23, one week earlier than is typical due to winter-run Chinook salmon being observed in the Delta.

Agenda Item 7. Next Meeting

- The next SaMT meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10/31/23 on Microsoft Teams.

Action Items

1. Nick Bauer to contact Kristin Begun about adjusting the Knights Landing Catch Index (KLCI) value calculation.

2. Crystal Rigby and Nick Bauer, CDFW, to take on distribution of the KLCI to SaMT (weekly) and to Reclamation (daily).
 - a. Kearns & West to provide the SaMT email list to Crystal and Nick for the KLCI distribution.