



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 10/29/24 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 (USBR)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Kearns & West (K&W)

Announcements

- The SaMT shared that the Teams folder was updated to include SMT members. The update has created access issues for some SaMT members.
 - Kearns & West asked SaMT members to contact Mia Schiappi to receive a new link.

Part 1. Updates on Water Operations and Biological Conditions

Relevant Actions & Triggers

- The Interim Operations Plan (IOP) is currently in effect resulting from a court order issued on 4/1/2024 and in effect until 12/20/2024. 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.
- **ITP Winter-run Single-year Loss Threshold (COA 8.6.1):** DWR and Reclamation will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval 8.6.1 of the ITP. These values are based on the juvenile production estimate (JPE). The final JPE for brood year 2024 natural-origin winter-run Chinook salmon will be determined early next year. The thresholds below will be based on the final JPE.
- The ITP natural-origin Winter-run Single-year Loss Threshold for this year is loss of unclipped length-at-date (LAD) winter-run Chinook salmon from the CVP and SWP greater than or equal to 1.17% of the winter-run Chinook salmon JPE (loss \geq N/A). If 50% of the threshold is exceeded (loss \geq N/A), the required response would be to reach a 14-day average OMR of -3,500 cfs. If 75% of this threshold is exceeded (loss \geq N/A), the required response would be to reach a 14-day average OMR of -2,500 cfs. If 100% of this threshold is exceeded (loss \geq N/A), the required response is to immediately convene SaMT to review recent fish distribution information and operations and provide advice regarding future planned Project operations to minimize subsequent loss during that year. The JPE has not yet been calculated for WY 2025; therefore, threshold values are not yet available but natural-origin winter-run loss is still being tracked until these thresholds are determined.
- The ITP hatchery-origin Chinook salmon Single-year Loss Threshold for this year is loss of clipped LAD 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 \geq N/A). If 50% of the threshold is exceeded (loss \geq N/A), the required response would be to reach a 14-day average OMR of -3,500 cfs. If 75% of this threshold is exceeded (loss \geq N/A), the

required response would be to reach a 14-day average OMR of -2,500 cfs. The JPE has not yet been calculated for WY 2025 and hatchery-origin winter-run Chinook salmon have not been released yet in WY 2025; therefore, threshold values are not yet available for hatchery-origin winter-run loss.

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) 10/30/24. Additional details and operations context shared at the 10/29/24 meeting include:
 - Feather River releases decreased to 2,150 cfs and will continue to decrease over the coming days to hold at the minimum release of 1,750 cfs.
 - Sacramento River releases are at 6,800 cfs and will slowly decrease to a range of 4,500 to 6,800 cfs.
 - Sacramento River releases at Freeport are approximately 8,300 cfs. There is potential for decreases as the Feather River releases decrease but may stabilize with precipitation.
 - San Joaquin River flows continue to fluctuate with pulses on the Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers. Releases were around 2,500 cfs on 10/28/24 and will likely decrease over the coming days before a final pulse around 11/3-11/5/24.
 - Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports are at 4,800 cfs as of 10/28-29/24 and are expected to decrease as other rivers decrease. Outflow is expected to remain stable at approximately 4,000 cfs and may increase in November.
 - QWEST is at +100 cfs as of 10/29/24 and is expected to increase slightly over the coming days.
 - Rio Vista flows are approximately 3,500 cfs and are expected to remain relatively stable.
 - X2 is upstream of Collinsville, >81 km.
 - CVP share of San Luis Reservoir storage is approximately 732 TAF.
 - American River releases will remain at 1,500 cfs until November. The minimum release will increase to 2,000 cfs on 11/1/24.
 - New Melones releases are at 300 cfs and are anticipated to range between 250 cfs to 1,250 cfs for the fall pulse flow.
 - Jones Pumping Plant release is 1,800 cfs as of 10/28/24. Reclamation will look for opportunities to increase that beginning in November.

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.

Table 1. Fish Distribution Table

Location	Yet to Enter Delta	In the Delta	Exited the Delta
Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: 98-99% Last week: 99-100%	Current: 1-2% Last week: 0-1%	Current: 0% Last week: N/A
YOY spring-run Chinook salmon	Current: 100% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%
YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: N/A Last week: N/A	Current: N/A Last week: N/A	Current: N/A Last week: N/A
Natural origin steelhead	Current: 100% Last week: 100%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%	Current: 0% Last week: 0%

Justification for Fish Distribution Figures

- YOY winter-run Chinook salmon
 - 1 winter-run was caught at the Lower Sacramento trawl on 10/27/24. SaMT decided to increase the number for In the Delta to 1-2%.
- YOY spring-run Chinook salmon
 - None observed as of 10/28/24.
- YOY hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon
 - None have been released as of 10/28/24.
- Natural origin steelhead
 - None observed as of 10/28/24.

Part 2: Open Discussion on Species Status

Salvage Update

- There were no species pertaining to SaMT collected in salvage this week.

Hatchery and Collection Facility Operations

- N/A

Part 3. 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 available to SaMT on SharePoint by COB 10/29/24. The final assessment will be posted to Reclamation's Delta Monitoring Workgroup webpage.

ITP Risk Assessment

- Risk Assessments will not be conducted until November at the earliest due to a pending permit. When applicable, the updated draft ITP Risk Assessment will be distributed via email by COB of the meeting day for review by SaMT members with comments due by COB Thursdays. The ITP Risk Assessment will be finalized by COB on Fridays and can be found at CDFW's Water Project Operations webpage.
- Reclamation and CDFW may give a presentation in the upcoming months to share any new changes with the ITP and the new Record of Decision (ROD).

Part 4. Additional Considerations/Discussion

- N/A

Items to Raise to WOMT

- N/A

Next SaMT Meeting

- The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/5/24 at 9 a.m.

Action Item

- Reclamation will present on the salvage Steelhead genetics during the meeting on 11/5/24.