



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 10/31/23 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.
- A change order is in place to decrease releases from Keswick into the Sacramento River down to 5,000 cfs during 11/2/23 – 11/6/23.
- San Joaquin River flows at Vernalis are currently at 3,300 cfs and will decrease later this week after coming off of the last Stanislaus River pulse flow.

- Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) exports will increase from 300 cfs to approximately 6,000 cfs before decreasing along with the Sacramento River flows during November.
- Delta Outflow is expected to decrease from 11,900 cfs to approximately 4,500 cfs.
- QWEST will decrease from +7,000 cfs to -3,000 cfs for approximately a day due to operating to D-1641's monthly average outflow before gradually increasing into the positive range.
- Rio Vista flows are expected to range between 4,000 cfs and 8,000 cfs depending on the position of the DCC gates. There is a standard flow in place of 4,500 cfs for the month of November.
- 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.
- **ITP Winter-run Single-year Loss Threshold (COA 8.6.1):** DWR 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) that have not been determined.
 - The ITP natural-origin Winter-run Single-year Loss Threshold for this year is loss of unclipped length-at-date 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 is to reduce SWP exports by its proportional share, according to the coordinated

operations agreement (COA), that would be required 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 is to reduce SWP exports by its proportional share, according to the COA, that would be required to reach a 14-day average OMR of -2,000 cfs.

- The ITP hatchery-origin Chinook salmon Single-year Loss Threshold for this year is loss of clipped length-at-date 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 is to reduce SWP exports by its proportional share, according to the coordinated operations agreement (COA), that would be required 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 is to reduce SWP exports by its proportional share, according to the COA, that would be required to reach a 14-day average OMR of -2,000 cfs.
- **ITP Early-season Natural Winter-run Chinook Salmon Discrete Daily Loss Threshold (COA 8.6.2):** From 11/1/23 – 12/31/23, DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plan consistent with COA 8.6.2 of the ITP. The ITP Daily Loss Threshold for November is loss of older juvenile Chinook salmon from the CVP and SWP equal to or greater than 6 per day. The ITP Daily Loss Threshold for December is loss of older juvenile Chinook salmon from the CVP and SWP equal to or greater than 26 per day. If the threshold is exceeded (loss \geq 6, loss \geq 26), the required response is to reduce SWP exports by its proportional share, according to the COA, that would reach an OMR no more negative than -5,000 cfs for five consecutive days.

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) 11/1/23.
- SaMT discussed Fish Monitoring Gear Efficiency/Disruptions as addressed within the Operations Outlook and updated accordingly.

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 past Chipps Island
Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon	Current: 97-99% Last week: 99-100%	Current: 1-3% 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.
- There were no miscounts at the salvage facilities during the previous week.
- The SWP facility was shut down from 10/24/23 – 10/27/23.
- There was an outage at the CVP facility on 10/30/23 while the facility was undergoing repairs.

Salvage Calculations

- Kyle Griffiths, CDFW, provided a brief overview on salvage calculations for outages and other periods of unscreened export. Referring to the Salvage Data Sheet, Salvage Minutes are divided by the number of Count Minutes to determine the subsample expansion factor for each time stamp listed. Pumping Minutes are not factored into this calculation.

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 11/1/23. The final assessment will be posted to Reclamation’s Delta Monitoring Workgroup webpage.

ITP Risk Assessment

- The ITP Risk Assessment will be distributed on 10/31/23 with comments due COB Thursday (11/2/23). Past ITP Risk Assessments can be found at [CDFW’s Water Project Operations](#) webpage.

Agenda Item 6. Additional Considerations/Other Topics

Hybrid Meetings

- The possibility of conducting hybrid SaMT meetings will be revisited in January 2024.

Agenda Item 7. Next Meeting

- The next SaMT meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11/7/23 on Microsoft Teams.