



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 10/7/25 at 10:00 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)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Kearns & West (K&W).

Announcements

- Distribution List
 - K&W shared the SaMT and Weekly Water Operations distribution list with

participants prior to the meeting, if further updates are needed members can reach out to Michael Ding (mding@kearnswest.com) and Mia Schiappi (mschiappi@kearnswest.com).

- SaMT currently starts at 10:00 am but it can be changed to 9:30 am if more time is needed for future meetings.
- Agency Announcements
 - No announcements.
- Mia welcomed members to share any topics for tailored presentations

Meeting Summary

Part 1. Updates on Water Operations and Biological Conditions

Relevant Actions & Triggers

8.4.3 Winter-run Annual Loss Thresholds

8.4.5 Spring-run Chinook Salmon Protection Action and Surrogate Annual Loss Thresholds

8.5 Storm Flex

- **Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate operations (PA 4.10.5.3):** Gates are currently open to meet D-1641 water quality requirements.
- **OMR Management Season (PA 4.10.5.10.1, COA 8.3):** OMR Management for WY 2026 may begin in November, December, or January depending on what biological triggers are met.
- **SWP ITP Winter-run Chinook Salmon Annual Loss Thresholds (COA 8.4.3):** DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval 8.4.3 of the ITP. These values will be based on the BY 2025 juvenile production estimate (JPE), which will be finalized in January 2026.
 - 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 = TBD). If cumulative loss of natural-origin CHNWR in a brood year exceeds 50% of the annual loss threshold (loss > TBD), 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 > TBD) 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 WY 2026 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 \geq TBD and loss > TBD, 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).
- **SWP ITP Spring-run Chinook Salmon Protection Action and Surrogate Annual Loss Thresholds (COA 8.4.5):** From 10/1/2025–6/30/2026, DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with Condition of Approval 8.4.5 of the ITP. The ITP Hatchery Surrogate Loss Threshold for WY 2026 will include three late fall-run release groups from Coleman National Fish Hatchery (CNFH), six spring-run release groups from either Feather River Fish Hatchery (FRFH) or CNFH. If cumulative loss from CVP and SWP is greater than 0.25% for any release group, the required response is to reduce SWP exports by its proportional share, according to the COA, that would be required to reach an OMRI of -5,000 cfs for 7 consecutive days in November and December, or an OMRI of -3,500 cfs for 7 consecutive days if the action is exceeded from January-June.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations

- SaMT reviewed and updated the Fish and Water Operations Outlook document.
 - Sacramento River releases at Keswick Dam are 7,200 cfs on 10/07/25.
 - Clear Creek River releases at Whiskeytown are 225 cfs on 10/07/25.
 - Feather River releases are at 8,000 cfs and rapid release reductions will be implemented starting on 10/09/25 to levels below 2,500 before 10/15/2025. After the final reduction, releases will be maintained at 2,450 cfs.
 - American River releases at Nimbus Dam are 1,000 cfs.
 - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are 700 cfs.
 - San Joaquin River releases were at 1,300 on 10/06/25.

- Delta releases at Freeport are just below 19,000 cfs. Release rates will decrease once inflows from the 10/02/25 rainstorm stabilize and reduced inflows from Oroville start on 10/13/25.
- CCF exports are at 3,000 cfs on 10/07/25 and will be increased to 6,680 cfs contingent on water quality improvement.
- Delta outflow on 10/6/25 was at 17,700 cfs and will be decreased in the next few days due to the loss of the rain event which lasts on 10/07/25.
- QWEST as of 10/6/25 was 5,100 cfs and a seven-day average of -1,100 cfs.
- Adjusted X2 to be greater than 81 km.
- Delta has implemented variable pumping due to the outage at JPP. As of 10/6/25 in response to DMC demands, three units' combined exports are at 2,700 cfs.
- SaMT discussed Fish Monitoring Gear Efficiency/Disruptions as addressed within the Operations Outlook and updated accordingly.

Questions on Operations

- CDFW asked if there will be any changes to the releases next week.
 - Goodwin would be the most variable. Other (American, Keswick, Whiskeytown) releases will remain steady.
- CDFW asked if there was an outage at the fish salvage facility as well since there was an outage at the Jones facility.
 - The outage does not affect the pumping plant or the salvage facility. It's at the O'Neill pumping plant due to a transformer being swapped out. Pumping capacity is limited by the inability to pump into O'Neill to get it to San Luis. Tracy is fully operational aside from that constraint.
- CDFW asked for Rio Vista flows information.
 - Rio Vista is 12,500 cfs and decreasing to 10,000 cfs over the next 7 days with the loss of precipitation.
- CDFW asked for the state share of San Luis.
 - 850,000-acre ft

Part 2: Open Discussion on Species Status

Salvage Update

- N/A

Part 3. Live Edit Assessments

Proposed Action Assessment

- N/A

Spring Run Assessment

- DWR shared an updated version of the Spring-Run Chinook Assessment document.

Part 4. Additional Considerations/Discussion

Next SaMT Meeting

- The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 10/14/25.

Action Items

- N/A