



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 10/14/25 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

- Contact Mia at mschiappi@kearnswest.com and Michael at mding@kearnswest.com for SharePoint access support.

Meeting Summary

Part 1. Updates on Water Operations and Biological Conditions

Relevant Actions & Triggers

- **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.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations

- SaMT reviewed and updated the Fish and Water Operations Outlook document. Operation details can be referenced from this week's outlook. Additional details and operational context shared at the 10/14/25 meeting include:
 - A current weather system is moving through Northern California. As of 10/14/25, precipitation has mostly occurred in Coastal ranges and some parts of Southern California. While cold front accumulation has been occurring in the Sierras. Monitoring will continue as conditions change.
 - Feather River releases are currently at 2,450 cfs, decreased from 2,500 cfs the day before. From this week onwards, releases will be maintained at 2,450 cfs.
 - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently at 700 cfs but will vary throughout the week for fall pulse flows with peak flows not exceeding 1,500 cfs.
 - Freeport flows are currently at 12,871 cfs.
 - Vernalis flows are 1,449 cfs and the range for the rest of this week will be between 1,300 cfs - 1,900 cfs.
 - Delta outflow is at 15,700 cfs.
 - Jones Pumping Plant exports are at 1,800 cfs, adjusted for plant outage. Adjustments will tentatively end on 10/25/25.
 - Clifton Court Forebay exports are at 3,000 cfs and will decrease to 2,000 cfs starting 10/15/25.
 - Rio Vista flows are currently 8,800 cfs
 - QWEST flow rate is at 1,810 cfs.
 - Expected Daily OMR Index is -4,500; five-day average OMR index is -5,000; 14-day average OMR index is -7,400.
 - Tides are currently in the Last Quarter Moon phase, transitioning from a neap to a spring tide.

Questions on Operations

- CDFW asked for the seven-day average for QWest; the value is 2,469 cfs.
- CDFW sought confirmation on 'Yearlings' for Fall-run Chinook salmon smolts and if the fish classified as fall-run were yearlings.

- CDFW mentioned that based on recent storm events it is likely that fall-run Chinook salmon smolts are migrating downstream but wanted to know if what was written in the outlook was documented in the RSTs or just based on seasonal timing.
 - Reclamation will follow up. No fall-run Chinook salmon length-to-date fish have been caught in traps. Only winter-run Chinook salmon as of 10/14/25.
- SaMT discussed the possibility of inviting Big Notch Project team member(s) to present on monitoring data and operations.
 - DWR has several monitoring operations on Big Notch.
 - DWR and CDFW Fish Rescue Crew plan to monitor after flows recede for fish rescue work.
 - Fish salvage operations will be implemented soon.
 - Little Notch project in the area will be activated as well contingent on factors.
 - Acoustic receivers will be installed by this year. Some will be Juvenile Salmon Acoustic Telemetry System (JSATS). Uncertain if receivers will be 69 kHz.

Part 2. Open Species Discussion

Salvage Update

- N/A

Yolo Bypass Survey Update

- Mackenzie Miner, DWR, has joined the SaMT and will be providing occasional updates on the various Yolo Bypass surveys.
- As of 10/14/25, the traps have begun sampling adult fall-run Chinook salmon.
- The team conducts monitoring activities year-round to monitor salmon and native fish in the bypass. Anticipate deploying a rotary screw trap in November to monitor out-migrating juvenile salmon.

Regular Salmon Survey Discussions

- SaMT discussed the usefulness of including time during each meeting to share survey updates and where fish are currently being observed in the system.
 - CDFW shared they thought this would be a useful addition to the meeting given the need last season to discuss the Steelhead Special Study.
 - DWR supported adding this topic as a regular agenda item to support their Spring-Run Assessment.
 - SaMT agreed that this topic would be included regularly on the agenda.
- CDFW suggested allocating 10 minutes in SaMT meetings to cover all monitoring activities and updates, including Yolo Bypass survey updates.

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

- Mia will follow up with members experiencing SharePoint access issues.
- Mia will reach out to the Big Notch Project to schedule a presentation.