



Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

Teams call: 10/21/25 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

- Fall herbicide application at Clifton Court Forebay will begin on 10/27/25.

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.

- 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.
 - Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are currently at 700 cfs with two scheduled fall pulse flows not to exceed 1,500 cfs.
 - Freeport flows are currently at 12,300 cfs.
 - Vernalis flows are 2,467 cfs and the range for the rest of this week will be between 2,000 cfs - 2,700 cfs.
 - Delta outflow is at 8,400 cfs.
 - Jones Pumping Plant exports are at 1,000 cfs and and may increase to 4,200 cfs this weekend.
 - Clifton Court Forebay exports are at 4,000 cfs and will decrease to 2,000 cfs later this week, then to 500 cfs on 10/26/25, and to 0 cfs on 10/27/25, in preparation for the fall herbicide application.
 - Rio Vista flows are currently 6,200 cfs.
 - QWEST flow rate is at 1,923 cfs and seven-day average is 6,549 cfs.
 - Expected Daily OMR Index is -4,700; five-day average OMR index is -3,900; 14-day average OMR index is -4,500.

Questions on Operations

- CDFW requested the addition of QWEST values for the Delta to the weekly Operations Outlook.
- CDFW asked why the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gates have remained open even though the Knights Landing Catch Index thresholds in the Proposed Action have been met.
 - Reclamation explained that the DCC gates remain open due to ongoing water quality concerns in the Delta. Chloride concentrations in the Contra Costa Canal and at Rock Slough are above the D-1641 standard.
 - Connectivity standards remain near or above threshold levels. Because Rock Slough responds slowly to operational changes, additional Sacramento River flow is needed to help improve overall water quality conditions.
 - Reclamation is conducting an assessment and will provide an update. No final decision has been made, but discussions regarding these water quality concerns are ongoing.
- CDFW requested clarification on the specific actions implemented when the Knights Landing Catch Index trigger is met.
 - DWR explained that when D-1641 water quality standards are met and either the Knights Landing or Sacramento Catch Index is ≥ 3 , projects have 48 hours to close the DCC gates for three days. The gates must remain closed until the catch index is < 3 for two consecutive days.
 - DCC action triggers are outlined in Appendix 2: Proposed Action and AMP, available on the USBR Long-Term Operations [webpage](#).
- CDFW requested to include a summary in the Weekly Operations document if the Knights Landing Catch Index is triggered again moving forward.

Part 2. Open Species Discussion

Salvage Update

- CDFW noted a reduced count at the federal facility due to operator error. No sensitive species were present, so no impacts occurred.

American River Carcass and Temperature Management Update

- CDFW provided an update:
 - Five females were observed—three hatchery and two natural origins.
 - Pre-spawn mortality was 60%, and 20% were partially spawned; none were fully spawned.
 - Temperatures at the AFO gauge reached a high of 62.5°F. To reduce temperatures, a power bypass on the American River is scheduled for 10/21/25, with flows increasing from 250 cfs to 500 cfs on 10/29/25, then returning to 250 cfs and ramping down beginning 11/7/25.

Yolo Bypass Survey Update

- DWR had no updates but will share when the rotary screw trap is operational.

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, 10/28/25.

Action Items

- N/A