



# **Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting**

Teams call: 11/04/25 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**

- Next week's meeting will be canceled due to the Veterans Day holiday. Documents will be distributed as usual, and feedback can be provided by email.

- If there is strong interest in holding the Water Outreach or SAMT meeting, K&W will coordinate with Reclamation to find an alternate time; otherwise, all coordination will occur via email next week.

## Meeting Summary

### Part 1. Updates on Water Operations and Biological Conditions

#### ***Biological Context***

SaMT agreed to add clarifying language: Migrating LAD Winter-run Chinook salmon in the Biological Context section. This is supported by the DCC Gate Action.

#### ***Relevant Actions & Triggers***

- **Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate operations (PA 4.10.5.3):** Gates are currently closed.
- **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 Natural-origin Winter-run Chinook Salmon Early Season Weekly Loss Thresholds (COA 8.2.1):** DWR will operate OMRI consistent with 8.2.1 of the ITP. These values are based on the November 1 – November 30 threshold of a 7-day rolling sum of 98.10. Loss will be tracked 6 days prior to this COA being in effect and be included in the 7-day rolling sum. If the threshold is exceeded, a 7-day average OMR index of -5,000 cfs will be operated to for 7 days.
- **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 ( $\text{loss} > \text{TBD}$ ) 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 ( $\text{loss} \geq \text{TBD}$  and  $\text{loss} > \text{TBD}$ , 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 400 cfs and the anticipated range for the rest of this week will be between 200 cfs - 400 cfs.
  - Feather River flows are currently at 2,450 cfs and the anticipated range for the rest of this week will be between 2,000 cfs - 2,500 cfs.
  - Freeport flows are currently at 10,839 cfs and the anticipated range for the rest of this week will be between 10,000 cfs - 13,500 cfs.

- Vernalis flows are 1,838 cfs and the anticipated range for the rest of this week will be between 1,100 cfs - 1,700 cfs.
- Delta outflow is at 6,200 cfs and the anticipated range for the rest of this week will be between 5,500 cfs - 7,300 cfs.
- Jones Pumping Plant exports are at 4,200 cfs and the anticipated range for the rest of this week will be between 3,500 cfs - 4,200 cfs.
- Clifton Court Forebay exports are at 1,0000 cfs and will be maintained at that level for the rest of this week.
- Rio Vista flows are currently 8,300 cfs and the anticipated range for the rest of this week will be between 8,000 cfs - 10,000 cfs.
- QWEST flow rate is at -1,709 cfs and seven-day average is 300 cfs.
- San Luis storage is 1.072 MAF.
- Expected Daily OMR Index is -4,500 cfs; five-day average OMR index is -4,500; 14-day average OMR index is -4,000.

#### ***Questions/Discussion on Operations***

- DWR noted that a rain event is expected this week, which may result in slightly wider ranges in inflows, exports, and outflows. If the precipitation produces a broader, system-wide response, traditional flows could increase accordingly.
- DWR noted that its Feather River screw traps have been active since 11/03/25.

## **Part 2. Open Species Discussion**

#### ***Salvage Update***

- CDFW provided operational updates. The State Water Project was shut down from midnight on 10/26/25 through 10/31/25 for Clifton Court Forebay weed treatment and maintenance activities.

## **Part 3. Live Edit Assessments**

#### ***Proposed Action Assessment***

- Reclamation shared the most recent Proposed Action Assessment.
- DCC gates were closed on 10/30/25.
  - DCC gates will remain closed until KLCI and SCI measurements decrease to levels compliant with the D-1641 standard. KLCI has been triggered since 10/30/25

- Dissolved chloride exceedance at Rock Slough was based on electrical conductivity estimates, but lab results showed chloride levels were at or near the 250 milligrams/L D-1641 threshold.
- Chloride and salinity levels are expected to decrease despite DCC gate closures.
- The 78.3% historical migration data of Winter-run Chinook salmon passing Red Bluff may not accurately represent current migration timing due to later spawning this year.
- Sacramento Beach Seine traps collected 12 and 13 fish between 10/31/25 and 11/03/25.
- Red Bluff diversion dam data is posted on SacPAS
  - As of 10/28/25, the total passage is at 2.1 million fry,

#### ***Questions on Proposed Action Assessment***

- No questions

#### ***Spring Run Assessment***

- DWR shared an updated version of the Spring-run Chinook Assessment document. Key points included:
  - The Bio-Acoustic Fish Fence (BAFF) at Georgiana Slough is operational. Deterrent systems, including sound, light and bubble curtains, are functioning normally.
  - DCC gates opening will not impact BAFF, as systems will continue operating.

#### **Part 4. Additional Considerations/Discussion**

### **Next SaMT Meeting**

- The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/18/25.

#### **Action Items**

- N/A

