

Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) Weekly Meeting

1/13/26 at 11:00 a.m.

Actions

- DWR operators will review COA 8.7 language in the ITP regarding proportional shares and joint operations and will follow-up with CDFW.
- K&W will inquire with the authors of the related environmental and fish conditions in the operations outlook (Sacramento River) regarding the Spring-run and Winter-run salvage data being included in the outlook. K&W will follow up with CDFW about the response.

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)

Welcome & Housekeeping

- No updates.

Meeting Summary

Updates on Biological Conditions

Biological Context

Relevant Actions & Triggers

- **Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gate operations (PA 4.10.5.3):** Gates are currently closed.
- **Onset of OMR Management (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. Due to First Flush (COA 8.3.1) being triggered on 12/23/25, OMR management Season has begun.
- **SWP ITP Winter-run Chinook Salmon Annual Loss Thresholds (COA 8.4.3):** DWR will operate Banks Pumping Plant consistent with COA 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 1/1/26-6/30/26, DWR and Reclamation will operate Banks Pumping Plant and Jones Pumping Plant consistent with COA 8.4.4/PA 3.7.4.5.4 of the SWP ITP/CVP PA. These values are based on the product of the weekly percentage of natural-origin CHNWR present in the Delta, scaled to 100% (Table 4, Column E of the SWP ITP), and 50% of the natural-origin CHNWR annual loss threshold (COA 8.4.3/PA 3.7.4.5.3).
 - The weekly thresholds for the previous week and the upcoming weeks are provided below: 1/8/26 - 1/14/26:
 - 1/15/26 – 1/21/26: 34.37
 - If the 7-day rolling sum of loss exceeds the above thresholds in any given week, the required response is to reduce SWP and CVP exports to reach an average OMR index of no more negative than -3,500 cfs for seven consecutive days. DWR and Reclamation shall restrict exports in response to initial LAD identification of natural-origin older juvenile Chinook salmon. If genetic analysis of an individual natural-origin older juvenile Chinook salmon observed in salvage at the SWP or CVP indicates that it is not a winter-run, that individual shall not count toward the loss threshold and continued export restrictions under the PA or COA are not required if the weekly loss threshold has consequently not been met.
- **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 COA 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), and 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 COA 8.7, 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 the Fish and Water Operations Outlook document.

Questions/Discussion on the Operations Review

- CDFW asked about the expected daily OMRI values and whether the CVP is expecting to operate to an OMRI of -3,500 cfs? Otherwise are proportional shares expected to continue for now?
 - DWR confirmed proportional shares are expected to continue for now.
- CDFW asked for clarification on the controlling factor from 12/25-1/7. First Flush was triggered for DWR, but was it triggered for Reclamation as well?
 - DWR clarified that First Flush remained, but the projects were operating to different OMRI. The projects were jointly operating to -3,500 cfs OMRI on 1/25. With QWEST having been greater than 10,000, the projects targeted an OMRI was no more negative than -5,000 cfs during 12/26-12/28 . During 12/29-1/2 OMRI the CVP targeted no more negative than -5,000 cfs and OMRI and the SWP targeted no more negative than -3,500 cfs. On 1/3 for both projects, OMRI was -3,500 cfs and has been operating to -5,000 cfs after this date with QWEST above 10,000 cfs.
- CDFW asked if DWR has provided a written estimate of the total allowable exports at both the SWP and CVP facilities that would be required to meet the operational criteria as this is relevant to COA 8.7 and the application of a proportional share. It's required in the permit to be provided before the state operates to a proportional share.
 - DWR has not yet provided a written estimate and the operators agreed to review the permit and follow-up with CDFW.
- CDFW asked why Spring-run and Winter-run information are removed from the operations outlook for the related environmental and fish conditions for the Sacramento River.
 - Red Bluff USFWS provided the initial information. SaMT discussed and made edits to the outlook accordingly.
 - CDFW provided additional context: "CWT late fall-run and spring-run were observed the past week. Genetic fall-run, spring-run, and late fall-run were observed the past week. Some of these CWT late fall-run were part of the yearling spring-run surrogate group 2 fish."

Part 3. Salvage Reports

- CDFW shared the weekly salvage report.
- Continue to see LAD unclipped fall-run and some unclipped spring-run LAD.
- Genetic results received today (1/13) have not been incorporated in the data presented in today's report.
- Some larger sized unclipped fish, 3 Late-Fall-run.

- Some more Spring-run San Joaquin origin brood stock were collected at both facilities this week.
- Also collected Late-Fall-run at Coleman National Fish Hatchery including Spring-run yearling surrogates.
- There has not been a Hatchery Winter-run release seen, so the Hatchery Winter-run in today's report is probably LAT that the CWT has not reported yet.
- Collected clipped and unclipped steelhead at both facilities this week.
- No operational deviations this week to report.

Questions/Discussion

- No questions/discussion.

Part 4. Species Distribution

- No updates.

Part 5. ITP Assessments

Spring-run Assessment

- DWR shared an updated version of the Spring-run Chinook Salmon Risk Assessment document.

Questions/Discussion

- CDFW clarified the late fall-run loss from 12/22 and adjusted/aligned the numbers in the operations outlook.

Items to Raise to WOMT

- No items to raise to WOMT.

Next SaMT Meeting

- The next SaMT Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 1/20/26 from 11am-12pm.