

MEETING SUMMARY

Hatchery Scientific Review Group May 14–16, 2003, Chautauqua Lodge, Long Beach

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to complete the Willapa Bay Regional Review; receive an update on Hatchery Reform Project management and communications; and finalize plans for the North Coast Regional Review.

In Attendance:

1. HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Connie Mahnken, Lisa Seeb, Paul Seidel and HSRG alternate Tom Flagg.
2. Facilitation team members Kathy Hopper, Michael Kern, Bj Mirk and Jim Waldo. Barbara Cairns was in attendance on May 14 and 15.
3. Kyle Brakensiek and Willy Eldridge, NWIFC; Jim Mitby, Willapa Bay Gillnetters Association; Don Amend and Ron Craig, Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group; and Randy Aho, Rob Allan, James Bauer, Larry Durham, Manuel Fariñas, Kirt Hughes, Darrell Mills, Ron Warren and Jack Tipping, WDFW joined the Scientific Group on May 16 for an informal review of regional hatchery programs.

Discussions/Presentations:

On May 14, Michael Kern welcomed Scientific Group members to the meeting, and reviewed the agenda and meeting materials. Barbara Cairns provided the Scientific Group with an update on Hatchery Reform Project facilitation and communications activities. She said the May 5, 2003 Hatchery Reform Briefing held in Olympia went very well. Over 130 people attended, it was well-covered in the press, and the Scientific Group was able to effectively communicate its three principles of hatchery reform (Goals Setting, Scientific Defensibility and Informed Decision-Making). Speakers and panelists included Governor Gary Locke, Congressman Norm Dicks, NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator Bob Lohn, USFWS Assistant Regional Director Dan Diggs, NWIFC Chair Billy Frank, Jr., WDFW Director Jeff Koenings, and the HSRG's own Trevor Evelyn, John Barr, Lee Blankenship and Don Campton. The communications update also included a discussion of several opportunities to make presentations or author papers on the Hatchery Reform Project. This topic will be discussed in more detail at the June meeting.

The Scientific Group reviewed the assignments accepted by individual members several months ago to complete revisions to its *Scientific Framework and Hatchery Review Program* document, which provides the full set of tools developed for the group's review of hatchery programs. The Scientific Group decided to complete these revisions between the May and June meetings, setting aside a day on its June agenda to finalize the revised document. The other two days on the June agenda will be devoted to drafting the Hood Canal and Willapa Bay recommendations, and meeting with the Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee.

HSRG Meeting Summary
May 14–16, 2003

The Scientific Group then reviewed the additional information about Willapa Bay hatchery programs it had requested after the April meeting. The group spent the rest of May 14 and all of May 15 completing the Benefit/Risk Tool's Part 3 worksheet: *Is Current Hatchery Program Consistent with Short- and Long-Term Goals?; Recommendations and Alternatives* for all hatchery programs in the region. The group also finalized its plans for the field tour and in-region meetings for the upcoming North Coast Regional Review.

The Scientific Group spent May 16 hosting an Informal Review session with Willapa Bay regional participants. Jim Waldo welcomed the participants to the meeting, led a round of introductions and explained that the purpose of the informal review was to provide the managers with an informal, oral review of the Scientific Group's preliminary observations and recommendations for the region. The following Willapa Bay hatchery programs were presented:

- Willapa River Hatchery Fall chinook
- Nemah River Hatchery Fall chinook
- Naselle River Hatchery Fall chinook
- Willapa River Hatchery coho
- Naselle River Hatchery coho
- Nahcotta Net Pen Hatchery coho
- Naselle River Late Hatchery coho
- Willapa River Late Hatchery coho
- Nemah River Hatchery coho
- North River Hatchery coho
- Bear River Hatchery coho
- Independent Tributary Hatchery coho
- Willapa River Hatchery chum
- North River Hatchery chum
- Independent Tributary Hatchery chum
- Willapa River Hatchery Winter steelhead
- Nemah River Hatchery Winter steelhead
- Naselle River Hatchery Winter steelhead
- North River and Smith River Hatchery Winter steelhead
- Willapa Bay Coastal cutthroat

Preliminary recommendations for a number of facilities improvements were also presented at the informal review session, as were a regional overview and the Scientific Group's 15 Area-Wide Recommendations—reform measures that apply to the entire Puget Sound and Coastal Washington area. The regional participants agreed to hold an internal, follow-up session to discuss what they heard at the informal review, and provide feedback to the Scientific Group.