

# MEETING SUMMARY

## **Hatchery Scientific Review Group Olympia Room, Phoenix Inn Suites Hotel, Olympia, Washington June 22–23, 2000**

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**Agenda:** The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Scientific Group's information needs; receive a demonstration on new hatchery data management software; learn about harvest decision-making and comprehensive planning; continue development of the HSRG scientific framework; and review hatchery reform communication activities.

### **In Attendance:**

- HSRG members John Barr, Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Conrad Mahnken, Robert Piper, Lisa Seeb and Bill Smoker.
- Facilitation team members Barbara Cairns, Kathy Hopper, Michael Kern and Jim Waldo.
- Several others attended specific agenda items to make presentations, at the request of the HSRG (see below).

### **Discussions/Presentations:**

Michael Kern welcomed Scientific Group members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. He explained that Chair Lars Mobrand would not be able to attend. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chair Lee Blankenship.

Lisa Seeb led a discussion about the Hatchery Information Base the Scientific Group is assembling to ensure that it makes its recommendations on the basis of a solid foundation of information about hatcheries in Puget Sound and Coastal Washington. The Scientific Group identified a number of topics of importance and requested that the facilitation team work with the group to arrange background presentations on these topics at upcoming meetings. The group agreed to prioritize these topics at the end of the meeting and select a number of them for inclusion on the next agenda. It also agreed that it would add to this list as other topics arose.

The topics of importance identified at this meeting include: 1) Status of meta-populations of salmonids in Puget Sound and on the Coast, including definition of Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); 2) Proposed structural framework for conservation hatcheries; 3) Smolt to Adult survival trends of wild Puget Sound and Coastal chinook and coho salmon; 4) Scheduled reports from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) on hatchery reform funded research and monitoring; 5) Ecosystem/Ecological functions; 6) Viewpoint from hatchery critics; 7) Case histories of integrated versus segregated hatcheries; 8) The Wild Salmonid policy; 9) An overview and demographics of the Puget Sound and Coastal Washington hatchery system; 10) Reviewing Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs),

including the NMFS process ; and 11) Ocean carrying capacity.

Lisa Seeb demonstrated a software product called ProCite. Designed to track literature, ProCite enables the user to easily keep track of detailed citation information on a large number and variety of documents and other information sources, from journal articles to “gray literature” to emails. Citations can be searched by author, title, key word, abstract contents and many other fields.

The Scientific Group identified the following uses ProCite could have for the HSRG: 1) Tracking HSRG Scientific Framework references, including document abstracts and key words; 2) Tracking presentations made to the HSRG; 3) Organizing media and other communications material relevant to hatchery reform; 4) Tracking HSRG-produced documents and publications; 5) As a “portal” to online distribution of HSRG-related information. The Scientific Group asked the facilitation team to explore what it would take to acquire and set up ProCite as its document tracking system and agreed to implement the system if the report back is favorable.

Bill Smoker updated the Scientific Group on a Conservation Hatchery and Supplementation Workshop he attended last week in Portland, Oregon. The workshop was by invitation and was intended to flesh out a plan for reforming hatcheries in Oregon, outside the Columbia River drainage. The workshop was organized around breakout groups, each exploring one of the following questions: 1) When should supplementation be used in salmon recovery?; 2) What are effective strategies for using supplementation?; and 3) How should such efforts be evaluated? The workshop came up with a decision tree for when to use supplementation, but did not have a scientific framework behind this tree, such as the one the HSRG is developing. The group did not get to specific strategies, instead focusing on general principles. In some ways, the workshop was a one-day attempt to accomplish what the Scientific Group is doing over several months. The workshop sponsors will have a product available within a week, which will be of interest to the Scientific Group. Bill will get a copy to Michael Kern for distribution to the group

Ken Phillipson of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) and Manuel Fariñas of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) demonstrated HatPro, a hatchery data management software program being developed jointly by NWIFC and WDFW. HatPro represents the latest evolution of a program called Pond Manager that was first modified for use by the co-managers in 1986. Pond Manager kept basic information on ponds, eggs and other elements of a hatchery. HatPro has over 125 tables, thousands of fields and each table can hold up to 20,000 rows of data. The program can also forecast amounts of food and number of days needed to raise fish, costs, loading crises, etc.

HatPro will provide a unified data managed system for state and tribal hatcheries and will allow information to be ported out to any Northwest state or province. The program is currently being beta tested. Training for tribal hatchery staff will occur in August, 2000. Though NWIFC will not require that individual tribes use HatPro, most tribal facilities are ready to go and used to a similar system. The state plans to implement HatPro in the spring of 2001 and will require its use at state hatcheries.

Scientific Group members commented that the HatPro database seems to be focused on using hatcheries for production, not their new purposes. Ken Phillipson replied that it would not be hard to make the changes to the program needed to provide data for other uses. He hopes the Scientific Group will review the program and make suggestions for revision. Several Scientific Group members took beta copies of the program to review. Jim Waldo asked if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would consider using HatPro at its facilities in Washington. Don Campton said that they would consider it.

The Scientific Group concluded the first day with a wide-ranging discussion of current hatchery scientific issues and challenges including the difficulties involved in dealing with predicted record runs on the Columbia; whether there is evidence that hatchery fish can become self-sustaining; commonalities and differences among approaches to hatchery reform in the West; and the importance of the scientific framework as a foundation for scientific analysis and recommendations.

Pat Pattillo of WDFW and Gary Graves of NWIFC began the second day of the meeting with a presentation to the Scientific Group on how current harvest decisions are made for Puget Sound and Coastal stocks. Pat explained that the current system is a complex decision-making process focused on two key questions: 1) What are the conservation issues?; and 2) What are the allocation issues? He added that matters are further complicated by the fact that about 50% of Puget Sound summer and fall chinook are intercepted in Canada, meaning that much of the harvest is outside of the co-managers' management control. Involved jurisdictions include the tribes, the state, Alaska, Oregon, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC), the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) and Canada. The co-managers' recommendations are usually adopted by the PFMC.

Pat said that harvest management was maturing in the 1970s and 1980s. Decisions are now made more comprehensively; all fisheries, stocks and other factors are considered. The harvest rate for the weakest stock controls harvest for an entire mixed stock fishery. Pat and Gary said that harvest has been severely limited in recent years and that benefits to wild fish from these limits have pretty much been maximized. The co-managers use a number of tools to allow fishing with minimum impact on wild stocks, including terminal fisheries, closures, incidental catch levels, live release, equipment restrictions or requirements, and others.

Pat and Gary also explained the forecasting process, saying that local state and tribal biologists use various forecasting methods and then reach agreement on a forecast for their area. These forecasts drive most harvest decisions, but it is very difficult to forecast with great accuracy. This information is not made public as a matter of course, but interested members of the public can contact the co-managers to access it.

Gary and Pat explained that the Comprehensive Coho and Comprehensive Chinook Planning Processes were originally designed to help the co-managers move away from escapement goals toward exploitation rates as a means of making harvest decisions. Now, these processes have been expanded to include habitat and other elements of salmon recovery. One intent is to move away from annual planning to long term planning. The process also intends to evaluate invest-

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ments relative to fisheries, limits to forecasting and other aspects of the system. Pat emphasized the importance of understanding that recovery goals are different from harvest management goals. He also explained that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued a Biological Opinion providing the co-managers with a one-year finding of “no jeopardy” under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Gary said the co-managers feel optimistic that their salmon recovery harvest and habitat strategies will be acceptable to NMFS.

The Scientific Group spent part of the second day reviewing progress on its scientific framework and agreed that it needed to set aside an entire day at the next meeting to move the framework toward completion.

Barbara Cairns provided the Scientific Group with a recap of hatchery reform communications efforts since May, highlighted by the completion of the joint HSRG/LLTK Report to Congress. The meeting concluded with a discussion of the panel the Scientific Group will be sponsoring at the December Northwest Fish Culture Conference in Sacramento, CA. Kathy Hopper will continue to coordinate this panel and explore hatchery reform efforts in California. Several Scientific Group members will take the lead in investigating hatchery reform efforts in Oregon, Alaska and British Columbia.

The Scientific Group decided to hold its July 19–21 meeting in SeaTac, WA.