

MEETING SUMMARY

Hatchery Scientific Review Group October 13–15, 2004, Courtyard by Marriott, SeaTac

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to receive an update on co-manager decision-making meetings and key regional issues; discuss hatchery reform accountability; review the Elwha Restoration Plan; make progress on several scientific publications; and receive updates on a number of hatchery reform-related topics.

In Attendance:

1. HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton (October 14 and 15), Trevor Evelyn, Connie Mahnken, Lars Mobrand, Lisa Seeb, Paul Seidel and Bill Smoker (October 15); and alternate Tom Flagg.
2. Facilitation team members Barbara Cairns (October 13), Betsy Daniels (October 13), Michael Kern, Bj Mirk (October 15), Michael Schmidt (October 13 and 14) and Jim Waldo (October 13 and 15).
3. Bill Fairgrieve of NOAA Fisheries joined the HSRG on October 15 to discuss a scientific publication.

Discussions/Presentations:

On October 13, Jim Waldo welcomed the HSRG to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Michael Kern reviewed the meeting materials. Barbara Cairns provided a Hatchery Reform Project facilitation and communications update. Barbara explained that the facilitation team is working closely with the co-managers and others to ensure that implementation of hatchery reform is successful. This has included coordinating the Hatchery Reform Coalition, which met on September 22 to hear about the summer technical workshop series and WDFW's biennial budget proposal. The Mountaineers—the Northwest's oldest and one of its largest conservation organizations—has joined the coalition. Another activity has been working with the Shared Strategy for Salmon Recovery in Puget Sound to help ensure the hatchery portion of the strategy is consistent with the HSRG's hatchery reform principles and recommendations. In addition, NOAA Fisheries' Salmon Conservation Division in Portland has requested a presentation on the findings of the HSRG. Connie Mahnken and Lars Mobrand agreed to schedule that presentation.

Betsy Daniels provided an update on the regional, co-manager decision-making meetings that are following the technical workshops held over the summer. Betsy said that follow-up meetings have been held in six of ten regions, with the final four coming shortly. Some regions have requested—and received—facilitation, coordination and other assistance from the facilitation team. Others have preferred to operate more independently. Paul Seidel reported that he continues to have meetings with key personnel across WDFW divisions, to communicate what hatchery reform implementation will require and achieve. Betsy said the facilitation team is working with the co-managers to coordinate their preparation of information for several salmon recovery and planning processes, including Endangered Species Act recovery plans, the Puget Sound hatchery environmental impact statement, and the HSRG's annual report to Congress.

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The HSRG brainstormed elements and topics for its 2004 report to Congress. The group agreed that the report should include the HSRG's philosophy, 2004 accomplishments, a 2005 work plan, and a discussion of implementation needs, priorities, progress to date and what is yet to be accomplished. The HSRG agreed that a comprehensive statement on its findings will be in the 2005 report that concludes the Hatchery Reform Project.

In a conversation begun on this day and concluded on October 15, the HSRG discussed the need to communicate its findings to the scientific community. The group agreed that it will be critical to the implementation of hatchery reform for the group to successfully communicate these findings during this period where several processes are bringing added attention to issues surrounding hatcheries. Toward that end, the group agreed to complete revisions to an overview essay it is preparing for *Fisheries Magazine* and submit it for publication. The HSRG will also complete a technical discussion paper providing guidance on when to start a conservation hatchery program. With assistance from NOAA Fisheries' Bill Fairgrieve, the HSRG will develop a scientific publication on the concept of the "wild fish template." And the HSRG will draft a paper for publication in the scientific literature about the integrated/segregated hatchery program concept and how it is applied to management via the All H Analyzer (AHA) tool.

The HSRG concluded the day with a discussion of this management tool. The HSRG asked the facilitation team to complete edits to a user's guide for the version that was used in the technical workshops. Lars Moberand said WDFW is exploring a possible web-based version, where data inputs and outputs can be saved and date stamped. The HSRG agreed that there is utility in developing a version of the tool that allows stocks to be "rolled-up" to the sub-basin, province or regional level and then allows managers to "drill back down," to see what modifications are needed at the stock level to reach goals at these higher levels.

The HSRG began October 14 by reviewing the most recent version of the Elwha River Restoration Plan, responding to a request from the Elwha Restoration Team (ERT). The HSRG agreed to send a letter to the ERT providing the HSRG's feedback on the plan and inviting the ERT to discuss this feedback at the November or December HSRG meeting.

The HSRG spent the remainder of the day and the first part of October 15 discussing the topic of managing for success and accountability at hatcheries. Lars Moberand and Connie Mahnken agreed to develop a draft strategy for discussion at the November meeting, based on HSRG input provided at this meeting. The strategy will address needs for monitoring properly integrated and segregated programs, and will provide general monitoring priorities and the level of specificity required. John Barr and Paul Seidel agreed to bring this draft strategy to hatchery managers to "ground truth" what it would require to implement the approach. They will also consider opportunities to "piggy back" on existing monitoring in harvest, habitat and other management programs.

The HSRG finished this meeting by discussing several hatchery reform implementation issues that have been identified to date during the regional co-manager decision-making meetings. The HSRG provided its thoughts on these topics to the facilitation team, for conveyance to the co-managers.