

MEETING SUMMARY

Hatchery Scientific Review Group Courtyard by Marriott, Tukwila, Washington November 12–16, 2001

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to begin work on a report containing hatchery reform recommendations from the three pilot regional reviews conducted during 2001; to begin assembling a companion document to this report containing the Scientific Framework and regional review tools; to discuss the 2002 work plan and budget, including the research program; to address other issues remaining from the pilot reviews; and to schedule meetings for the first half of 2002.

In Attendance:

- HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Connie Mahnken, Lars Mobrand (chair), Bob Piper, Lisa Seeb, and alternate Paul Dorn.
- Facilitation team members Kathleen Hopper, Michael Kern and Michael Schmidt. Bj Mirk and Jim Waldo attended on November 12, 15 and 16. Barbara Cairns attended on November 16.
- Regional participants Marianna Alexandersdottir, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; Kit Rawson, Tulalip Tribes; and Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe joined the Scientific Group on the afternoon of November 15 for supplemental discussions related to the regional reviews.

Discussions/Presentations:

On November 12, Jim Waldo welcomed Scientific Group members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Michael Kern reviewed the meeting materials, including a set related to the recent *Alsea Valley Alliance v. Evans* (Oregon Coastal coho) court decision. The Scientific Group decided that the best approach in light of this development was to continue on its path toward completing regional reviews of the Puget Sound and Coastal Washington hatchery system in 2003. Reforming this system will continue to be important, regardless of the status of specific Endangered Species Act salmon listings.

Turning its attention to the report it is authoring following the three regional reviews conducted in 2001, the Scientific Group reviewed the draft 2001 Hatchery Reform Recommendations table of contents and template prepared by the facilitation team. The group approved these drafts, after making several changes. Scientific Group members reviewed the feedback received from the informal review sessions and regional participants' internal meetings, and brought any significant issues they identified back to the group for discussion. They agreed to have a draft report ready for review at the December meeting, to be finalized in January. They also agreed that the report will include space for a management agency(s) to respond to recommendations for both their own programs and others in which they have an interest.

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The Scientific Group decided that there needs to be a companion document to accompany the report. This volume should contain the group's regional review tools, including the scientific framework, operational guidelines, monitoring and evaluation criteria, regional briefing information instruction sheet, and a generic version of the benefit/risk tool. The companion document will also contain narrative explaining the regional review process and tools. The audience would be both scientists and fisheries managers. The Scientific Group asked the facilitation team to come up with a name for this companion document and made a series of assignments to assure that the various components of this volume would be completed or revised in time to be available shortly after publication of the report, and in time to be used for the next round of regional reviews, slated to begin in early 2002.

On the morning of November 14, Lars Moberg and Michael Kern met in Olympia with the Independent Science Panel (ISP) established to advise the Governor's Salmon Team. They provided the ISP with an introduction to the Hatchery Reform Project, the Scientific Group, and the regional review process. The ISP stated that it would be valuable to maintain communications between the two groups and provided several valuable suggestions for refining the scientific framework.

Discussing these suggestions and other thoughts, the Scientific Group decided that significant revisions to the scientific framework should begin as issue papers authored by the Scientific Group. These could be as simple as a few paragraphs or as detailed as a peer-reviewed essay for *Fisheries*. They will be included in concept form as appendices to the version of the framework included in the companion document, and incorporated into the framework itself by the end of 2002. Seven issue papers topics were identified and assigned to task teams. The group spent the middle portion of the meeting working individually on draft sections of the report and as task teams and a group on revisions to the tools.

On November 15, the Scientific Group agreed that it should work with Kit Rawson and Marianna Alexandersdottir to develop a monitoring and evaluation implementation program regional model. The Stillaguamish/Snohomish Region could serve as a pilot for implementing such a program. The group will ask the state and tribes to support the development of this model with agency hatchery reform research funding. Kit and Marianna agreed to provide their outline for such a program to the Scientific Group soon.

On November 16, the Scientific Group approved a work plan and budget for FY 2002, for presentation to the Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee at their November meeting. As part of this discussion, the group agreed to reduce the line item for its 2002 research program, in recognition that the priorities for the year (in light of a reduction in funding) are continuing the regional reviews and implementing recommendations in regions already reviewed. The group decided that it will not solicit pre-proposals for FY 2002 research grants. Rather, it will solicit proposals from currently-funded research projects and fund a subset of these. Proposals will be due January 1, 2002, with decisions made at the January meeting. The Scientific Group also decided to host a Research Review in January, to receive oral progress reports on both HSRG-funded and agency-funded 2001 hatchery reform research.

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The Scientific Group ended the meeting by discussing a preliminary agenda for the December and January meetings. The December meeting will include an introductory session with participants from the next region to be reviewed, the Skagit River Basin. The Scientific Group agreed to the following meeting dates for the first half of 2002: January 16–18; February 11–13; March 11–13; April 9–11; May 15–17; June 19–21.