



2006 Work in Progress

HSRG WORK IN PROGRESS

The HSRG has drafted a Scientific Framework, reviewed all hatchery programs in the study area, and helped develop some of the tools needed for successful implementation of hatchery reform. In the coming year, the HSRG will help guide effective implementation, continue tool development, bring hatchery reform concepts to the scientific literature, and review progress by the co-managers. Specific objectives for 2006 are:

1. *Tool Development*: Identify additional funding for continued development and populating the analytical tools—Managing for Success (MFS) and All-H Analyzer (AHA).
2. *Grant Program*: Establish a grant program using HSRG funds to help implement hatchery reform demonstration projects.
 - a. Develop criteria for prioritizing demonstration projects.
 - b. Develop process for soliciting demonstration projects.
 - c. Select and fund demonstration projects.
 - d. Review progress on projects.
3. *Scientific Publications*: Prepare three scientific papers for publication.
4. *Long-Term Hatchery Reform Implementation*: Support development of long-term hatchery reform programs by state, tribal and USFWS managers.
5. *Columbia Basin Program*: Identify funding to expand hatchery reform to the Columbia that will replicate the Puget Sound and coastal Washington hatchery reform process.

The HSRG's budget for 2006 is included in Appendix D.

CO-MANAGERS WORK IN PROGRESS

(Information below provided by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife)

WDFW continues to develop integration/segregation broodstock management plans for remaining WDFW Chinook and coho programs in Puget Sound, the Washington coast and the Columbia River. These include Green River, Voights Creek, Deschutes, Minter Creek, Garrison, Elwha and Skokomish fall Chinook, and Dungeness spring Chinook. For Puget Sound, these plans will be presented to the co-managers for discussion, modification and agreement, with anticipated implementation to occur in



fall 2006. Draft plans for the remaining eight coho programs in Puget Sound are in development. In addition, WDFW will be working with others as the HSRG process is duplicated within the Columbia River Basin.

Recognizing that a staged, prioritized and incremental approach to hatchery reform is necessitated by funding, logistical and environmental constraints, WDFW has embarked on a multiyear effort to transform hatcheries from an “all-H risk factor” to a productive tool for restoring salmon and enhancing fishing opportunities. The expected benefits are substantial—enhanced fishing opportunities, improved stock status, economic stimulation of rural communities, and a reduced risk of third party litigation.

Building upon the broad consensus emerging from the independent reviews of hatchery programs conducted by the HSRG (Puget Sound and Washington coast) and Artificial Production Review and Evaluation or APRE (Columbia Basin), WDFW has developed a strategic initiative entitled *Salmon and Steelhead for the 21st Century: Salmon Recovery, Hatchery Reform and Sustainable Fisheries*. This initiative will build the foundation for scientifically defensible programs, implement priority actions to improve hatchery programs, and assure continued program modifications through results-oriented, performance-based management. WDFW has asked LLTK to provide facilitation, communications and strategic planning assistance for this initiative (see LLTK Work in Progress section).

(Information below provided by the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission)

Because Congress did not provide any funds to the Tribes for continued scientific expertise and implementation of hatchery reform in 2006, both the salmon ecologist and biometrician position will be eliminated, along with the scientific support for these aspects of hatchery reform. Hatchery reform funding has been greatly appreciated by the tribes, but has always been less than the amount needed. Inadequate funding remains the single biggest obstacle to hatchery reform. As quality proposals for hatchery reform projects continue to increase in response to the review and recommendation process, available funding has not been adequate to fully implement the hatchery reform initiative. Ultimately, inadequate funding means that sacrifices in the ability to protect and restore productive salmon runs will lead to sacrifices in legally mandated benefits of tribal hatcheries.

USFWS WORK IN PROGRESS

(Information below provided by US Fish and Wildlife Service)

In addition to continued participation of a USFWS fish geneticist on the HSRG and implementing HSRG recommendations at its three western Washington hatchery facilities, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is beginning a three-year review of the 21 Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead hatcheries that USFWS owns or operates. The goal is to ensure that USFWS hatcheries are operated on the best scientific principles, and contribute to sustainable fisheries and the recovery of naturally-spawning populations of salmon, steelhead and other aquatic species of concern.

This internal review will, in many ways, resemble the Puget Sound and Coastal Washington Hatchery Reform Project, which USFWS believes provides both a solid template and operational tools (e.g.



software spreadsheets, population dynamic models) for reviewing USFWS hatcheries in the Columbia River Basin. USFWS also believes that much of the background information necessary for reviewing hatcheries in the Columbia Basin has already been compiled in Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs), Comprehensive Hatchery Management Plans (CHMPs) and the APRE database developed by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC).

Based on the recommendations of the USFWS Pacific Regional Office Hatchery Review Working Group (Working Group), the Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries (ARD) has assembled a Columbia Basin Hatchery Review Team (Review Team). This Review Team, comprised of USFWS and other federal agency scientists, has adapted the HSRG's scientific framework, principles and hatchery review tools and is applying them to create reform recommendations for each hatchery program. The team provides excellent continuity with the HSRG because two members (including the chair) have served on the HSRG, the vice chair has served on the policy-makers' Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee, and three other members represented USFWS at HSRG regional review meetings. USFWS has contracted for project facilitation with LLTK, which has provided facilitation, communications and coordination for the Puget Sound/Coastal Washington process.

The Fisheries ARD has appointed a Hatchery Oversight Team (Oversight Team) to succeed the Working Group as USFWS' primary internal mechanism to oversee the review process, monitor its progress, and transmit communications and reports from the Review Team to the ARD and project leaders within the USFWS Pacific Region Fisheries Program. The Oversight Team is coordinated by the Pacific Region Hatchery/Science Team Leader and includes participation by line supervisors within the Fisheries Program. The Oversight Team, along with the ARD, will be the primary contact group between USFWS and its partners, to develop policies for implementing or modifying the Review Team's recommendations.

The process began in October 2005 with a review of the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery (NFH) on the Warm Springs River in the Deschutes River watershed/Columbia Plateau province in Oregon. This review is being conducted as a pilot, to help USFWS test and refine the review process. Fishery co-managers and stakeholders are involved in the review process and have been asked to comment on draft reports and recommendations. The Warm Springs NFH report will be published in spring 2006, following co-manager and stakeholder/public review and comment periods.

Following this pilot review, USFWS will adjust the process as necessary and then review three more regions, including three NFHs in the Mid-Columbia region (Leavenworth, Entiat and Winthrop); five NFHs in the Lower Columbia region (Eagle Creek, Carson, Little White Salmon, Willard and Spring Creek); three NFHs in the Snake River region (Dworshak, Kooskia and Hagerman); and nine federally-owned hatcheries that are operated by the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho as part of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (Lyons Ferry, Tucannon, Irrigon, Lookingglass, Wallowa, Clearwater, McCall, Sawtooth and Magic Valley). USFWS plans to complete reviews of all these facilities by 2008. For more information, visit <www.fws.gov/pacific/fisheries/hatcheryreview/>.



LLTK WORK IN PROGRESS

State, tribal and federal managers have started to turn the HSRG's recommendations into reality. This includes making systemic use of tools like AHA and MFS that enable—for the first time—simultaneous evaluation of the benefits and risks of changes to hatchery, harvest and habitat investments, in order to help return the greatest number of healthy, fit adult salmon to fisheries and the spawning grounds.

In Puget Sound and coastal Washington, a large portion of responsibility for implementing this new approach falls on WDFW. In addition to hatchery reform recommendations, WDFW is facing several other obligations and commitments related to salmon/steelhead recovery and sustainable fisheries that need to be addressed simultaneously.

Recognizing the complex and multiple challenges it faces, WDFW's director and senior leadership has asked LLTK to help them make operational the science-based, ecosystem-focused salmonid management needed to meet these obligations. LLTK has accepted this invitation to help create a framework for institutionalizing reform, and facilitate the transformation of WDFW into an internationally-recognized model for 21st century salmon and steelhead management. LLTK expects this *21st Century Salmon and Steelhead Management* initiative to include:

- Short-, medium- and long-term strategic planning.
- Work plans with measurable benchmarks and methods/assignments for tracking and communicating progress.
- Staff training and technical consultation.
- An effective communication strategy with stakeholders and the public, to ensure transparent decision-making and a broad-based constituency supportive of the dramatic changes ahead.

LLTK will work with senior WDFW management to:

- Develop a cross-agency and cross-discipline WDFW Core Management Team.
- Facilitate the development of internal Departmental plans and processes for ensuring hatchery reform implementation.
- Help WDFW take a leadership role in fostering regional ESA salmon recovery processes that bring together habitat, harvest and hatchery management.
- Help WDFW prepare for participation in watershed-by-watershed co-management meetings with the tribes, communications with user groups, and Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations.
- Help further develop “all-H” decision-support tools like AHA and a transparent action/outcome tracking and evaluation system (MFS), to demonstrate accountability.
- Communicate hatchery reform and “all-H” integration achievements and plans.
- Improve communications with the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, and between the different divisions in charge of science, hatcheries, habitat and harvest.



- Help identify and secure resources and expertise.
- Develop a comprehensive monitoring strategy that is consistent statewide and relevant for each region.
- Establish Washington State Government Management Accountability and Performance (GMAP) reporting criteria.

LLTK will also continue in 2006 to build a constituency for new fisheries management and beneficial roles for hatcheries, broadening the base of support among sports and commercial fishermen, environmental organizations, and state and federal legislators and other elected officials. This is critical to ensure reforms get implemented. It is also necessary to ensure that the traditional constituencies for WDFW and the tribes understand why the co-managers are making the changes they are, some of which will be dramatic. Methods for broadening this support will include:

- Coordinating and expanding the Hatchery Reform Coalition.
- Maintaining the <www.hatcheryreform.org> website.
- Taking advantage of other communications opportunities, such as briefings, conference and symposia presentations and newsletters.

LLTK's intended expenditures for this initiative are included in Appendix D. LLTK will supplement the federal funds provided for this initiative with private and foundation funding. In addition, LLTK will continue providing facilitation in 2006 for USFWS' Columbia Basin Hatchery Review (see USFWS Work in Progress section). That work is supported by a separate contract with USFWS.