

MEETING SUMMARY

Hatchery Scientific Review Group Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell, Seattle, Washington March 19–21, 2001

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to review proposals received for 2001 HSRG research grants; to continue planning for a regional review of the Puget Sound and Coastal Washington hatchery system including preparing a benefit/risk tool, operational guidelines, monitoring and evaluation criteria, and an instruction sheet for use in that review; and to meet with participants from the first region to be reviewed.

In Attendance:

- HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Connie Mahnken, Lars Mobrand (chair), Robert Piper, Lisa Seeb, Bill Smoker and alternate Paul Dorn (John was not in attendance on the afternoon of March 21).
- Facilitation team members Kathy Hopper, Michael Kern, Bj Mirk and Jim Waldo (Jim and Bj were not in attendance on March 19).
- Participants in the upcoming Eastern Straits Regional Review process met with the Scientific Group on March 21.

Discussions/Presentations:

Michael Kern welcomed Hatchery Scientific Review Group (Scientific Group) members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Kathy Hopper facilitated the Scientific Group's discussion of 2001 research grant funding.

The Scientific Group discussed 20 full project proposals that had been submitted for 2001 HSRG research grant funding. After discussion and a formal review and voting process, the group agreed to fully, or partially, fund 12 projects; to deny funding to five projects; and to delay decision on three projects where specific questions need to be resolved. Once these questions are addressed, the remaining proposals will be discussed and decided upon, either via teleconference or at the April meeting. The Scientific Group decided to add additional information requests to the full proposal format for next year's grant program, to provide more complete information.

In preparation for a meeting with participants from the Eastern Straits region (the first region slated to receive a regional review of its hatchery system), the Scientific Group completed a draft regional review instruction sheet containing the key questions and sources of information the Scientific Group will need in advance from regional personnel. Categories of information include regional management goals, salmonid biological significance and population viability, current and future habitat, and hatchery programs.

The instruction sheet was presented to the Eastern Straits participants at an informal meeting, along with an overview of the Hatchery Reform Project, the Hatchery Scientific Review Group

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and the Regional Review process. At the regional participants' recommendation, the May meeting will be in Sequim and the June meeting in Port Angeles. The facilitation team will visit the region and/or hold conference calls with participants there to continue making preparations for the Regional Review meetings. Eastern Straits participants stressed that site visits and discussion would provide a fuller picture of the region than written materials, but felt they could do a thorough job of providing written background information as well.

The Scientific Group spent the remainder of the meeting refining draft versions of the tools they are preparing for use in the regional review process, including the benefit/risk tool, operational guidelines, and monitoring and evaluation criteria. All three of these tools will be available in a hyperlinked and electronic format, and tied to the Scientific Framework the group developed in 2000.

The Scientific Group decided to seek an informal review of these tools by key agency personnel and by participants in the pilot region, to see if these reviewers felt the tools would serve their intended functions. The group also decided to ask the participants to provide preliminary regional information for the Scientific Group to review at its April meeting.

The Scientific Group decided to create a draft regional review report outline for review at the April meeting. The draft monitoring and evaluation criteria will be provided to the Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee for review and approval. If tied to the new HatPro software and database as a means of gathering and recording data, this could provide the accountability system for hatchery reform.

The Scientific Group directed the facilitation team to arrange introductory meetings at their April meeting for the next two pilot regions: South Sound and Stillaguamish/Snohomish. Legislators will also be invited to an update session on the Hatchery Reform Project and the Regional Review process.