

MEETING SUMMARY

Hatchery Scientific Review Group Best Western CottonTree Inn, Mount Vernon, Washington March 5–8, 2002

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to begin the review of the Skagit River Basin region; and host an introductory meeting with regional participants for the upcoming Nooksack/Samish Regional Review

In Attendance:

1. HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Connie Mahnken, Lars Moberg (chair), Lisa Seeb and Bill Smoker. NWIFC alternate Paul Dorn was in attendance on March 5 and 6.
2. Facilitation team members Michael Kern and Michael Schmidt.
3. Marianna Alexandersdottir, Kyle Brakensiek, Willy Eldridge and Jeff Shaw of NWIFC; Dave Pflug of Puget Sound Energy; Bob Hayman and Scott Schuyler of the Skagit System Cooperative; and Charmane Ashbrook, Brett Barkdull, Pete Castle, Kevin Kurras, Chuck Lavier, Darrell Mills, Steve Moore, Steve Stout, Jack Tipping and Jed Varney of WDFW joined the Scientific Group on March 7 to review regional goals and hatchery program purposes and types.
4. Earl Steele of Bellingham Technical College; Mike O'Connell of Long Live the Kings; Alan Chapman of the Lummi Tribe; Ned Currence of the Nooksack Tribe; Marianna Alexandersdottir, Kyle Brakensiek and Willy Eldridge of NWIFC; Charmane Ashbrook, Pete Castle, Darrell Mills, Steve Seymour, Ted Thygesen, Jack Tipping and Jed Varney of WDFW joined the Scientific Group on March 7 for an introductory meeting on the upcoming Nooksack/Samish Regional Review.
5. Kevin Kurras, Chuck Lavier, Steve Moore, Steve Stout and Jed Varney of WDFW joined the Scientific Group on March 8 to discuss current regional hatchery operations.

Discussions/Presentations:

On March 5, the Scientific Group toured the WDFW smolt trap at Burlington. That evening, Michael Kern welcomed Scientific Group members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda and meeting materials. The Scientific Group then viewed videos of the February 19, 2002 event announcing the publication of the *2001 Hatchery Reform Recommendations* report and the news coverage that followed. The Scientific Group agreed that the news conference was successful in spreading key messages about the Hatchery Reform Project, and that the resulting coverage has broadened how hatcheries are written about in the regional media.

Lee Blankenship reported that a letter has been sent from the Scientific Group to the Past Presidents Council of the American Fisheries Society requesting nominees to fill the independent seat currently filled on an interim basis by Bob Piper, who would like to step down from the group. The final topic of conversation on this evening was the upcoming report to Congress. The

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Scientific Group agreed that the facilitation team should work with the chair and vice chairs to complete the draft report as soon as possible, and email it to the Scientific Group and the Coordinating Committee.

The tour of regional facilities was completed on March 6 with visits to the tribal Red Creek Hatchery, Puget Sound Energy's Baker Lake spawning beaches and dams, and WDFW's Marblemount Hatchery and Barnaby Slough rearing ponds.

On March 7, the Scientific Group began by discussing the *Scientific Framework and Hatchery Review Program* document it is assembling to make available the group's full set of regional review tools. The group made a series of assignments, in order that the document can be completed as soon as possible. Chapters will be added to the project's web site as they are completed. The document will not be published in hard copy until all chapters are completed. The information being assembled for the chapter describing the Scientific Group's research program will be used for a presentation Don Campton and facilitation team member Kathy Hopper will be giving to hatchery biologists for NWIFC tribes on March 20.

The Scientific Group endorsed an effort launched at WDFW to develop a scorecard/checklist for hatchery managers and staff to evaluate whether recommended reforms are occurring and, if not, what the obstacle(s) to implementation are (for example, funding limitations, need for coordination with NMFS or other outside agencies). The group agreed that this approach needs to be taken to the Coordinating Committee at its next meeting for their consideration, with the recommendation that the tribes coordinate a similar effort.

Lars Mobernd welcomed regional participants to the meeting and led a round of introductions. The participants spent the remainder of the day working with the Scientific Group to review preliminary ratings a Scientific Group task team had created for the region's current and future goals for stock status, habitat and harvest opportunity for all regional stocks; along with purpose, type and description for all regional hatchery programs. Lars explained that these ratings provide the premise for the Scientific Group's review. After a series of revisions, the regional participants agreed that the information was accurate and complete. At the end of the day, the Skagit regional participants provided the Scientific Group with a series of specific issues they would like to see addressed as part of this regional review.

Also on March 7, the Scientific Group hosted an introductory meeting for regional participants in the upcoming May and June Nooksack/Samish Regional Review. After a presentation on the Hatchery Reform Project, the Scientific Group, and the regional review process, and instructions for providing information for the regional briefing book, the Scientific Group and the regional participants agreed to a list of regional stocks to be evaluated. The facilitation team agreed to send this list of stocks to the regional participants for use in developing briefing book materials.

On March 8, Scientific Group task teams, working with the regional hatchery managers, completed a comparison of current regional hatchery operations to the Scientific Group's Hatchery Operational Guidelines. After the hatchery managers departed, the Scientific Group concluded the meeting by preparing for upcoming meetings. This included identifying information gaps for the April meeting and making assignments to obtain the needed

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information, and assigning members to present particular programs at the April informal review session for the Skagit region. The Scientific Group also agreed that the introductory meeting for the Central Puget Sound region should be held in or around Seattle on May 7, before the group heads up to the first Nooksack/Samish regional review meeting in Bellingham.