

MEETING SUMMARY

**Hatchery Scientific Review Group
April 22–24, 2003, Chautauqua Lodge, Long Beach
April 25, 2003, Morrison Riverfront Park Rotary Log Pavilion, Aberdeen**

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to begin the Willapa Bay Regional Review; and to hold an introductory meeting for the North Coast and Grays Harbor regions.

In Attendance:

1. HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Lars Mobrand (chair), Paul Seidel and Lisa Seeb.
2. Facilitation team members Barbara Cairns (not in attendance April 24), Kathleen Hopper, Bj Mirk and Michael Schmidt (not in attendance April 22).
3. Charlie Stenvall, USFWS; and Randy Aho, Robert Allan, Darrell Mills, Ike Queral, joined the Scientific Group on April 22 for portions of the field tour.
4. Don Amend and Ron Craig, Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group; Charlie Stenvall, USFWS; and Randy Aho, Robert Allan, Jim Bauer, William Campbell, Rich Ereth, Kirt Hughes, Ken Jansma, Dave Kloempke, Darrell Mills, Ike Queral, Chad Stussy, Jack Tipping, and Ron Warren WDFW joined the Scientific Group on April 23 and 24 to review regional goals and hatchery program purposes and types.

Discussions/Presentations

On April 22, the Scientific Group toured the following facilities: the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Reikkola Unit; and the Naselle, Nemah and Forks Creek hatcheries managed by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On April 23, Barbara Cairns reported on the preparation for the May 5 Hatchery Reform Project Briefing. She said the event would be from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Ramada Governor's House in Olympia. Invitations were emailed to over 400 invitees including Hatchery Reform Coalition members, Congressional and Legislative members and staff, 25 news organizations, tribal, state, federal and cooperative regional review participants, Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee members, and other contacts that have been developed over the past three years. Confirmed speakers included Governor Gary Locke, Congressman Norm Dicks, Dave Allen of USFWS, Billy Frank, Jr. of NWIFC, and Jeff Koenings of WDFW.

The first part of the briefing agenda includes having the scientists present their findings and recent recommendations, as well as hearing from the Governor and Congressman Dicks. Jim Waldo will moderate the second part of the briefing, which includes presentations from the co-managers and a question and answer period. Barbara hoped to have a final agenda to the Scientific Group by the middle of the following week.

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Barbara also reported that Mary Ruckelshaus, Chair of the NOAA Fisheries Technical Recovery Team (TRT), requested a meeting with the Scientific Group to discuss the Hatchery Reform Project. The scientists agreed that Barbara should call Mary to learn more about the purpose of the meeting. Barbara also reported that the 2003 Hatchery Reform Project Report to Congress had been sent to Congressional members.

Bj Mirk reported that both the House and Senate Legislative capital budgets include \$7 million for hatchery reform projects. The scientists discussed a number of agenda items to be added to the June meeting.

Bj Mirk then welcomed regional participants in the meeting and led a round of introductions. Lars Mobrand provided an overview of the regional review process and led discussions on the preliminary ratings that a task group of the Scientific Group had created for the region's current and future goals for stock status, habitat and harvest opportunity for all regional stocks; along with the purpose, type and description for all regional hatchery programs. The Scientific Group and regional participants spent the remainder of the day clarifying the goals for each program, ensuring that the hatchery programs were correctly described, and identifying additional information that was needed to complete the review. At the end of the session, regional participants were asked to provide the Scientific Group with specific issues they would like to see addressed as part of this regional review.

On April 24, the Scientific Group broke into task teams and began working on the operational guidelines section of the Benefit/Risk Tool. The Scientific Group task teams, working with the regional hatchery managers, then completed a comparison of current regional hatchery operations to the Scientific Group's Hatchery Operational Guidelines. Over the noon hour, the scientists who are scheduled to participate in the May 5 Hatchery Reform Briefing met with the facilitation team to prepare briefing materials. The scientists then continued working with the co-managers in clarifying goals and programs. The hatchery managers then departed.

At the end of the day, Scientific Group members were assigned to present preliminary recommendations for individual hatchery programs at the May informal review session. The Scientific Group made a series of assignments to fill any gaps in the information they had been presented to date for this region. The scientists then provided the facilitation team with instructions on how to prepare for the upcoming review in the North Coast region and reviewed the agenda for the next day's introductory meeting with regional participants from the North Coast and Grays Harbor regions.

On April 25, the Scientific Group hosted an introductory meeting for regional participants in the upcoming North Coast and Grays Harbor regions. After a presentation on the Hatchery Reform Project, the Scientific Group, the regional review process, and the instructions for providing information for the regional briefing books, the Scientific Group and the participants agreed to a list of stocks to be evaluated in the North Coast region. The facilitation team will send the list of stocks, a contact list and the instruction form to the regional participants electronically for their use in developing briefing book materials. For the North Coast, the Scientific Group and the participants agreed that all materials would be provided electronically to the facilitation team by

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May 31. The facilitation team will work with the Grays Harbor participants to develop a stock list for that region as well.