

MEETING SUMMARY

**Hatchery Scientific Review Group
April 26–28, 2004, Courtyard by Marriott, Tukwila**

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to receive a facilitation/communications update; discuss hatchery reform implementation activities and the work plan for the remainder of 2004; discuss the future of hatchery reform, both in Puget Sound/coastal Washington and in other areas; plan for the May HSRG meeting in Alaska; plan for regional meetings beginning in the summer; and hold a technical discussion between HSRG and co-manager scientists.

In Attendance:

1. HSRG members Lee Blankenship, (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Connie Mahnken, Lars Mobrand, Lisa Seeb, Paul Seidel, Bill Smoker and alternate Tom Flagg.
2. Facilitation team members Barbara Cairns (not in attendance on April 28), Betsy Daniels, Mark Glyde (not in attendance on April 28), Michael Kern, Bj Mirk, Michael Schmidt (April 26 only) and Jim Waldo.
3. Ken Currens and Terry Wright, NWIFC; and Andy Appleby, Craig Busack and Jack Tipping, WDFW joined the HSRG on April 28 for a technical discussion session and a conversation about regional meetings and workshops.

Discussions/Presentations:

On April 26, Jim Waldo welcomed HSRG members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Michael Kern reviewed the meeting materials. Barbara Cairns and Mark Glyde provided a project management and communications update, including the April 23 press event, at which the HSRG released its *Hatchery Reform: Principles and Recommendations of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group* report. The event was well-attended and the HSRG's report was well-received. Speakers included Governor Gary Locke, Congressman Norm Dicks, HSRG Chair Lars Mobrand, WDFW Director Jeff Koenings, NWIFC Chair Billy Frank, Jr. and Hatchery Reform Project Lead Facilitator Jim Waldo. Barbara was master of ceremonies. The report and the Hatchery Reform Project received extensive and favorable coverage following the press conference, including newspapers, television and radio.

Betsy Daniels and Michael Kern handed out copies of the HSRG's report and 2004 recommendations (for the Hood Canal, Willapa Bay, North Coast and Grays Harbor regions). They thanked the HSRG and members of the facilitation team for working so hard to get these documents completed in time for the press conference.

Mark provided the HSRG with an update on the informal coalition of stakeholder groups that have come together to support hatchery reform. LLTK is providing staff support to this coalition, which met on March 31. At that meeting, coalition members agreed to send a letter to the co-managers supporting the implementation of hatchery reform, given that the implementation strategy is consistent with the findings of the HSRG. That letter was included in the press

HSRG Meeting Summary
April 26–28, 2004

conference materials and is available from the project's website, www.hatcheryreform.org. The coalition decided to hold regular meetings, and requested that each meeting feature a presentation on a key concept of hatchery reform, beginning with the integrated/segreated hatchery program concept.

Lars updated the HSRG on the series of technical discussions held during February and March between the in-state members of the HSRG and key co-manager scientists. The purpose of these discussions has been to ensure a common understanding of the key concepts of hatchery reform, and to further refine and develop these ideas. Lars said that these meetings have been extremely productive and are leading to a series of short papers that summarize the conclusions reached during the discussions on topics including the integrated/segreated concept, when to start planning for a conservation hatchery program, wild salmonid management zones, monitoring and evaluation of hatchery programs, and other topics. These discussions will continue throughout May, and hopefully beyond, in preparation for a technical "kick-off" meeting that will precede the regional workshops being planned for the summer (see below).

Lee Blankenship has been invited to make a presentation on the Hatchery Reform Project at the May 15 Steelhead Summit in Bellevue, hosted by the Wild Steelhead Coalition. Lee and Barbara will both participate in a panel discussion on hatchery reform at the summit. LLTK's Michael Kern, Mark Glyde and Kathleen Hopper will also attend.

The HSRG then discussed publishing its findings in the peer-reviewed, scientific literature. Lisa Seeb provided the HSRG with a final draft of the essay on the Hatchery Reform Project she has been editing for *Fisheries* magazine. She will submit it for publication following the meeting. The HSRG accepted Connie Mahnken's and Tom Flagg's offer to have NOAA Fisheries scientists assess whether the HSRG's report could be easily distilled down into a series of articles that could constitute a special edition of a fisheries-related journal. Tom will provide a memo on this topic for the HSRG to consider at its next meeting.

At the end of the day, the HSRG and facilitation team held separate meetings to discuss the future of hatchery reform. The two groups reconvened on April 27 to share the results of each conversation. Both groups agreed that they remain committed to the work plan developed for preparing a hatchery reform implementation strategy through 2005. They also agreed that it would be desirable to maintain some form of independent oversight of hatchery reform after 2005. They further agreed to continue looking for opportunities for the Hatchery Reform Project to serve as a model for other areas, including the Columbia River Basin. However, close attention will be paid to not detracting from the Hatchery Reform Project's core mission of ensuring implementation of reform in Puget Sound and Coastal Washington. The Hatchery Reform Conference, planned for February 2005, will be an excellent vehicle for disseminating the reform message.

The facilitation team then led the HSRG through an update on the 2004 work plan. All work plan elements for the first quarter have been successfully completed. The scientists, managers and facilitation team are on track to complete second quarter tasks. The group then discussed how to best achieve the work plan for the third quarter, which will focus on regional meetings. The

HSRG Meeting Summary
April 26–28, 2004

HSRG agreed that the regional elements of the work plan should be separated into the following three efforts:

1. *HSRG Regional Technical Workshops*—Two- or three-day workshops in July, August and September (with one day per region) that focus on the HSRG’s principles and system-wide recommendations, the technical tools developed by the HSRG and co-manager scientists, and applying the integrated/segregated concept. These will not be decision-making meetings. The HSRG will request participation from the key co-manager hatchery technical personnel in each region. Habitat, fish health and other non-hatchery personnel will not have to attend. A “kick-off” meeting for these workshops will be held on June 10.
2. *Co-Manager Regional Decision-Making Meetings*—Facilitated meetings to begin in August that focus on the key regional issues identified by the HSRG, a review of the managers’ stock goals that lead to specific hatchery programs, an assessment of changes needed to ensure programs are compatible with the HSRG’s recommendations (particularly the integrated/segregated concept), and salmon recovery compliance issues. The co-managers can request HSRG participation in these meetings on a case-by-case basis. A “kick-off” meeting for these regional meetings will be held in June.
3. *Assessment*—A system developed by the HSRG and the co-managers as part of the technical discussions to provide answers to the key questions, broad or specific, relating to implementing hatchery reform and adaptively managing hatchery programs. This will go beyond the current tracking tools, which address whether the co-managers have implemented the HSRG’s program-specific recommendations. This will facilitate implementation of reforms that include changing programs to better meet and reflect current manager stock goals.

Given these priorities, the HSRG established the following meeting schedule for the second and third quarters of 2004:

- The May 24–28 meeting will be held in Juneau and Anchorage, in response to an invitation from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.
- The June 21–23, 2004 meeting will be held in Tukwila. The focus will be on preparation for the regional workshops.
- The regional workshops will be held on the following dates and likely locations:
 - Eastern Straits/Hood Canal/Debrief, July 20-22, 2004, Silverdale.
 - Stillaguamish-Snohomish/Nooksack-Samish/Skagit, July 26-28, 2004, Bellingham or Mount Vernon.
 - South Sound/Central Sound, August 31-September 1, 2004, Tacoma.
 - Willapa Bay/North Coast/Grays Harbor, September 14-16, 2004, Aberdeen or Ocean Shores.

The HSRG discussed the draft May agenda and invitation to Alaskan attendees provided by Lisa Seeb and Bill Smoker and approved them, after making a number of changes. Michael Kern will work with Bill and Lisa to complete the logistics for this meeting.

HSRG Meeting Summary
April 26–28, 2004

On April 28, the HSRG was joined by several co-manager technical personnel. The group began the day by discussing the approach to regional meetings and workshops detailed above. Jim explained that, like the regional reviews in 2001–04, participation in the technical workshops would be voluntary, and that regions would not necessarily have to wait until the workshops had occurred to begin making regional decisions on implementation, if they are ready to go beforehand. However, the exchange of knowledge about the principles of reform and how to implement the recommendations that would result from the workshops would most likely be useful in each region.

The remainder of the day was spent working with the technical discussion group to revise the work products being prepared for the technical “kick-off” meeting on June 10. Several discussion group members agreed to revise draft documents in advance of the next technical discussion session, May 19 in Olympia. The group will finalize the agenda for the June 10 meeting at that time.