

MEETING SUMMARY

**Hatchery Scientific Review Group
Renton Community Center, Renton, Washington; and
Bellingham Cruise Terminal, Bellingham, Washington
May 7–10, 2002**

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

In Attendance:

1. HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Connie Mahnken, Lars Mobernd (chair), Lisa Seeb, Paul Seidel and Bill Smoker. NWIFC alternate Paul Dorn was in attendance on May 7.
2. Facilitation team members Barbara Cairns (not in attendance on May 10), Kathleen Hopper, Michael Kern, Bj Mirk, Michael Schmidt (not in attendance on May 10) and Jim Waldo.
3. Kyle Brakensiek and Willy Eldridge of NWIFC; Paul Hage, Richard Johnson and Dennis Moore of the Muckleshoot Tribe; Blake Smith of the Puyallup Tribe; Jay Zischke of the Suquamish Tribe; Brodie Antipa, Charmane Ashbrook, Chuck Baranski, Tom Cropp, Jeff Davis, Bob Everitt, Steve Foley, Doug Hatfield, Chad Jackson, Chuck Johnson, Kirk Lakey, John Long, Darrell Mills, Don Nauer, Denis Popochock, Joan Thomas, and Jack Tipping of WDFW joined the Scientific Group on May 7 for an introductory meeting on the upcoming Central Puget Sound Regional Review.
4. Earl Steele of Bellingham Technical College; Mike O'Connell of Long Live the Kings; Alan Chapman, Robert Hall, Eldon Hillaire, Merle Jefferson, Randy Kinley and Bill Revey of the Lummi Nation; Kyle Brakensiek and Willy Eldridge of NWIFC; Ned Currence of the Nooksack Tribe; and Charmane Ashbrook, Pete Castle, Doug Huddle, Darrell Mills, Steve Seymour, Ted Thygesen, Jack Tipping and Jed Varney of WDFW joined the Scientific Group on May 9 to review regional goals and hatchery program purposes and types.
5. Alan Chapman, Bill Finkbonner, and Robert Hall of the Lummi Nation; Mike O'Connell of Long Live the Kings; Earl Steele of Bellingham Technical College; Ed Argenio, Doug Huddle, Al Kehrl, Steve Seymour, Ted Thygesen and Jed Varney of WDFW joined the Scientific Group on May 10 to discuss current regional hatchery operations.

Discussions/Presentations:

On May 7, the Scientific Group hosted an introductory meeting in Renton for regional participants in the upcoming Central Puget Sound Regional Review, to be held August through October 2002. After a presentation on the Hatchery Reform Project, the Scientific Group, and the regional review process, and instructions for providing information for the regional work book, the Scientific Group and the regional participants agreed to a list of sub-regions and stocks to be

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evaluated. The facilitation team agreed to send this list of stocks to the regional participants for the participants to review and then use in developing work book materials. The Scientific Group and the regional participants agreed that all work book materials will be provided electronically to the facilitation team by Friday, June 28.

Also on May 7, the Scientific Group toured the Whatcom Creek Hatchery at Bellingham Technical College and Bellingham Hatchery. The tour of regional facilities was completed on May 8 with visits to the Lummi Bay, Samish, Lake Whatcom, Skookum Creek and Kendall Creek hatcheries. This latter stop also included an overview of the spring chinook acclimation sites on the upper north fork of the Nooksack River.

On May 9, Jim Waldo welcomed Scientific Group members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Michael Kern reviewed the meeting materials. After consultation, the Scientific Group concurred with WDFW's decision to appoint Paul Seidel as the agency's new representative to the HSRG. WDFW still needs to provide a letter officially appointing Paul as the agency representative.

After thorough discussion and careful consideration of a list of nominees provided by the American Fisheries Society's Past Presidents Council, the Scientific Group selected Lee Blankenship to fill the independent scientist seat being vacated by Bob Piper by a unanimous, consensus vote. Although the group believed the other nominees were also well-qualified, it felt none could bring as much to the process as Lee does. He has a comprehensive understanding of fisheries science in general and of Pacific Northwest salmonids in particular. He is recognized both nationally and internationally as an innovator in fish culture technology. He also provides an important institutional memory for the Puget Sound and Coastal Washington Hatchery Reform Project, having been involved in the project since its inception, and in hatchery reform efforts long before that.

In addition, the Scientific Group determined that with only a year and a half left in its regional review process, it will best serve the reform effort to appoint someone already intimately familiar with the process. Lee will not need to be brought "up to speed" on what has become a detailed and complex undertaking. He will be able to contribute at a high level right away.

Jim Waldo then welcomed regional participants to the meeting and led a round of introductions. Lars Mobernd provided an overview of the regional review process. Steve Seymour gave a PowerPoint presentation featuring photographs of habitat conditions in the region.

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 regional participants provided the Scientific Group with a series of specific issues they would like to see addressed as part of this regional review.

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On May 10, 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. The hatchery managers also provided the Scientific Group with a list of facility needs.

After the hatchery managers departed, the Scientific Group prepared for the June meeting. This included identifying information gaps and making assignments to obtain the needed information, and assigning members to present particular programs at the April informal review session for the Nooksack/Samish region.

The meeting concluded with discussion of a series of hatchery reform issues not related to the Nooksack/Samish Regional Review. The Scientific Group will be revising its *Scientific Framework for the Artificial Propagation of Salmon and Steelhead* at its July meeting. Members were assigned to coordinate revisions within particular chapters, in advance of that meeting.

The Scientific Group agreed that Lee Blankenship and John Barr should work with the facilitation team to make HSRG research grant program annual and final reports available from the Hatchery Reform Project web site. However, researchers should be informed first.

The Scientific Group agreed to make a decision at the July meeting about where to begin regional reviews again in February 2003. The group asked the facilitation team to draft an agenda for all three months of the Central Sound Regional Review, for discussion at the June meeting.