

MEETING SUMMARY

**Hatchery Scientific Review Group
May 24–27, 2004, Centennial Hall, Juneau and Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage**

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to host workshops, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), to: 1) present an overview of the Hatchery Reform Project and the work of the HSRG, and 2) facilitate an exchange of information on hatchery-related issues with Alaskan researchers, managers and policy makers. A second purpose of the meeting was for the HSRG to review draft documents being prepared for a June 10 technical “kick-off” meeting for hatchery reform implementation.

In Attendance:

1. HSRG members John Barr (vice chair, May 24 and 25 only), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Connie Mahnken, Lisa Seeb, Paul Seidel and Bill Smoker.
2. Facilitation team members Michael Kern, Bj Mirk and Jim Waldo.
3. David Bedford, Irvin Brock, Meg Cartwright, Doug Eggers, Steve McGee, Dan Moore, Flip Prior, Cathy Robinson, Jim Seeb, Gordy Williams and R.C. Young, ADFG; Dale Kelley, Alaska Trollers Association; Bart Watson, Armstrong-Keta; Rick Focht and Eric Prestergard, Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC); Al Edsall and Jean Legault, EWOS; Adrian Celewycz, Emily Ferguson, Andy Gray, Pete Hagen, Bill Heard, Angela Middleton, Frank Thrower and Alex Werthheimer, NOAA Fisheries; Steve Reifentstahl, NSRAA; John Brunys, POWHA; Jev Shelteri, PSC; Kate Tesar, PWSAC; John Burke, SSRAA; Don Beard, TE/KCM; Milo Adkison, AJ Gharrett and Jack Piccolo, UAF; and Joe Sullivan, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFFA) joined the HSRG for the workshop in Juneau on May 25.
4. Chris Habicht, Steve McGee, Jeff Milton, Dan Moore, Sean Palmer, Jim Seeb and Bill Templin, ADFG; Eric Barnhill and Karen Gillis, Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association; Gary Fandrei, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association; Karen Dunmall, Kawerak; Alex Werthheimer, NOAA Fisheries; Tim Smith, Nome Fisheries Association; Kate Tesar, PWSAC; Ray RaLonde, UA-Anchorage; Denny Lassuy, US Fish and Wildlife Service; and Joe Sullivan, YRDFFA joined the HSRG for the workshop in Anchorage on May 27.

Discussions/Presentations:

On May 24, the HSRG received field tours of the following facilities in the Juneau area:

- Macaulay Hatchery (DIPAC)
- ADFG Tag & Otolith Laboratory
- NOAA Fisheries Auke Bay Laboratory (ABL)

At ABL, the HSRG received the following presentations:

HSRG Meeting Summary
May 24–27, 2004

- Hatchery History and Oversight—Steve McGee, ADFG
- ADFG Pathology Policy—Ted Myers, ADFG
- ADFG Genetic and Invasive Species Policies—Jim Seeb, ADFG
- Hatchery and Wild Stock Interactions of Juvenile Chum Salmon in Marine Waters of Southeastern Alaska: A Bioenergetics Approach—Joe Orsi, ABL
- Feeding Ecology, Growth and Growth Potential of Juvenile Pink Salmon Inhabiting the Gulf of Alaska during Summer Months—Jamal Moss, ABL

On May 25, Dave Bedford (ADFG Deputy Commissioner) welcomed HSRG members and Juneau-area participants to the meeting, saying it was an ambitious exercise on the part of the HSRG to attempt to review over 100 hatcheries in Puget Sound and the Washington coast; hatcheries with a more than 100-year history. The history of large-scale hatchery production is much shorter in Alaska. The focus is on providing hatchery production that does not disrupt natural production. Dave said he looked forward to the exchange of ideas.

Jim Waldo reviewed the agenda and provided a context for the workshop. He said hatcheries have a different history in Washington. They started 100 years ago under the assumption that hatcheries could fully replace natural stocks. When the current Alaska system was getting started in the 1970s, Washington state was in the middle of severe allocation issues prompted by the Boldt Decision, affirming the right of Washington's Indian Tribes to half the harvestable fish. There was a major effort to expand hatchery production at that time, to make more fish available for all interests. Now, hatcheries are being reexamined in the light of Endangered Species Act listings and new scientific information. So, the contexts under which hatcheries operate in Washington and Alaska are very different and there is much we can learn from each other's experience.

The HSRG then made the following presentations related to the Hatchery Reform Project and the HSRG's key findings and recommendations:

- Project Overview—Michael Kern
- Regional Review Process and Tools—Lee Blankenship
- Research Program—Lee Blankenship
- HSRG Principles & System-Wide Recommendations—Connie Mahnken
- Integrated versus Segregated Hatchery Programs—Don Campton, HSRG

During the afternoon, Juneau-area participants made the following presentations related to hatchery issues in Alaska:

- Status of Stocks—Alex Wertheimer, ABL
- Large-Scale Enhancement in Alaska: Ecological Interactions and Implications—Steve Reifentstahl, Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA)
- Can Wild and Hatchery Salmon Successfully Coexist? Consider the Alaska Model—Bill Heard, ABL
- Is the North Pacific Ocean Carrying Capacity for Pacific Salmon Limited?—Doug Eggers, ADFG

HSRG Meeting Summary
May 24–27, 2004

- Effects of 70 Years of Freshwater Sequestration on Survival, Growth, Early Maturation and Smolting in a Stock of Anadromous Rainbow Trout from Southeast—Frank Thrower and John Joyce, ABL
- Genetic Effects of Interbreeding between Pacific Salmon Populations—Tony Gharrett, UAF

On May 26, the HSRG traveled from Juneau to Anchorage. At the end of the day, the HSRG debriefed on the May 25 session, prepared for the May 27 session and began making proposed revisions to two technical discussion papers it is preparing in cooperation with WDFW and NWIFC scientists: *Integrated Hatchery Programs* and *Segregated Hatchery Programs*.

On May 27, ADFG's Jim Seeb welcomed HSRG members and Anchorage-area participants to the meeting, saying Alaska has benefited from Washington's experience and history with hatcheries in establishing the Alaskan hatchery system. He said the states share a high regard for wild stocks and both want to optimize the cost/benefit ratio from their hatcheries. He said both also share an interest in fostering needed research on hatcheries. Jim Waldo reviewed the agenda and provided a context for the workshop similar to the one he provided in Juneau.

The HSRG then made the same presentations related to the Hatchery Reform Project and the HSRG's key findings and recommendations as it made on May 25.

During the afternoon, Anchorage-area participants made the following presentations related to hatchery issues in Alaska:

- History of Aquaculture in Alaska—Ray RaLonde, University of Alaska-Anchorage
- Planning and Oversight of Alaskan Hatcheries—Steve McGee, ADFG
- Sport Fish programs in Alaska—Jeff Milton, ADFG
- Relationship of Size at Return with Environmental Variation, Large-Scale Enhancement and Productivity of Pink Salmon in Prince William Sound, Alaska—Alex Wertheimer, NOAA Fisheries
- Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association Programs—Gary Fandrei, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA)
- The Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative (AYK SSI)—Chris Zimmerman, US Geological Survey

The HSRG spent an evening session continuing revisions to the integrated and segregated technical discussion papers. The group decided to defer completion of these documents until the next Technical Discussion Group meeting. The documents will be finalized on June 3, for presentation at a June 10 Technical "Kick-Off" meeting in Seattle.