

MEETING SUMMARY

**Hatchery Scientific Review Group
June 19–21, 2002, Fox Hall, Hampton Inn, Bellingham**

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to complete the review of the Nooksack/Samish River region; and to discuss a number of other Hatchery Reform Project-related issues.

In Attendance:

1. HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Trevor Evelyn, Connie Mahnken, Lisa Seeb, Paul Seidel and Bill Smoker. Don Campton was in attendance on June 21.
2. Facilitation team members Barbara Cairns (not in attendance on June 21), Kathleen Hopper, Michael Kern, Bj Mirk, Michael Schmidt and Jim Waldo.
3. Earl Steele and Mike Muller of Bellingham Technical College; Mike O'Connell of Long Live the Kings; Charlotte Clausin, Linda Delgado, Bill Finkbonner, Robert Hall, Eldon Hillaire, Ernie Jefferson, Isaac Jefferson, Merle Jefferson, Daniel Kennedy, Randy Kinley and Bill Revey of the Lummi Nation; Kyle Brakensiek, Willy Eldridge and Bruce Stewart of NWIFC; Ned Currence of the Nooksack Tribe; and Ed Argenio, Charmane Ashbrook, Pete Castle, Doug Huddle, Darrell Mills, Chuck Phillips, Steve Seymour, Ted Thygesen, Jack Tipping and Jed Varney of WDFW joined the Scientific Group on June 21 for an informal review of the region's hatchery programs.

Discussions/Presentations:

On June 19, Michael Kern welcomed Scientific Group members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda and meeting materials. Barbara Cairns provided a communications update. Barbara discussed several recent news articles relating to hatchery reform, including a cover story in the *High Country News*. She said the American Fisheries Society Western Division and the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited have requested pieces on the project for their newsletters. Barbara reported that she recently served as a panelist for a lecture series on salmon recovery sponsored jointly by the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs and School of Marine Affairs.

Barbara Cairns, Jim Waldo and Bj Mirk provided the Scientific Group with an update on the June 17 Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee meeting. They said that the discussions focused on how to ensure implementation of hatchery reform without creating a "new bureaucracy." The Scientific Group agreed to develop, at its July meeting, a list of outcomes the group would like to see realized during implementation, for submission to a Coordinating Committee task team that will be drafting an implementation plan. The group also agreed to discuss what roles, if any, the Scientific Group should play after the regional reviews are completed in 2003. Barbara, Jim and Bj told the Scientific Group that the Coordinating Committee meeting was followed by the first meeting of a coalition of stakeholders who are

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organizing to support the Hatchery Reform Project and implementation of the Scientific Group's recommendations.

The Scientific Group approved a draft agenda for all three months of the upcoming Central Sound Regional Review. The August meeting will be devoted to tours, with the September and October meetings being held at a SeaTac location. The Scientific Group agreed to move the October meeting back one day to October 15–17, to accommodate meeting facility availability. Michael Kern will inform the regional participants of this change.

The Scientific Group agreed to hold the November meeting in Olympia and the December meeting at Southcenter. The location for the January 2003 Research Review meeting will be determined at the July 2002 meeting. The Scientific Group agreed to begin the regional reviews again in February 2003 at Hood Canal. The introductory meeting for this region will be in November 2002.

The Scientific Group agreed to a list of topics for the July agenda including: 1) drafting recommendations for the Skagit River and Nooksack/Samish Rivers regions; 2) revising the *Scientific Framework and Hatchery Review Program* document; 3) discussing hatchery reform implementation outcomes and Scientific Group work plan alternatives after 2003; 4) Central Puget Sound Regional Review preparation; 5) meeting with personnel from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada; and 6) upcoming meeting dates and locations.

On June 20, the Scientific Group completed the Benefit/Risk Tool's Part 3 worksheet: Is Current Hatchery Program Consistent with Short- and Long-Term Goals?; Recommendations and Alternatives for all hatchery programs in the Nooksack/Samish region.

On June 21, the Scientific Group used this information to host an Informal Review with regional participants, at which the Scientific Group provided the participants with preliminary observations and recommendations. The following programs were presented:

- Nooksack North Fork/Middle Fork spring chinook
- Lake Whatcom kokanee (as affected by the above program)
- Nooksack South Fork spring chinook (contingency planning)
- Mainstem hatchery fall chinook
- Lummi Bay hatchery fall chinook
- Samish hatchery fall chinook
- Glenwood Springs hatchery fall chinook
- Glenwood Springs hatchery coho
- Kendall Creek hatchery coho
- Nooksack hatchery coho
- Lummi Bay hatchery coho
- Skookum hatchery coho
- Squalicum net pen coho
- Samish chum
- Whatcom hatchery chum
- San Juan hatchery chum

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- Nooksack North Fork chum
- Whatcom hatchery pink
- Nooksack hatchery steelhead
- Samish hatchery steelhead
- Whatcom hatchery steelhead
- Area-wide/region-wide/facilities

The regional participants agreed to hold a follow-up meeting to discuss what they heard at the Informal Review and provide feedback to the Scientific Group. They will also be providing the Scientific Group with updated descriptions of two hatchery programs that are currently being redesigned, so that the group's recommendations can be based on these new programs. All of this feedback will be forwarded to the Scientific Group by August.