

MEETING SUMMARY

Hatchery Scientific Review Group June 21–23, 2004, Courtyard by Marriott, Tukwila

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was prepare for a series of regional, technical workshops to be held this summer; discuss hatchery reform accountability; debrief from the May meeting in Alaska; and receive updates on a number of hatchery reform-related topics.

In Attendance:

1. HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Connie Mahnken, Lars Mobernd and Paul Seidel; and alternate Tom Flagg (did not attend on June 21).
2. Facilitation team members Betsy Daniels, Michael Kern, Bj Mirk, Michael Schmidt and Jim Waldo. Barbara Cairns and Mark Glyde attended on June 21.
3. Andy Appleby, Curt Hughes, Thom Johnson, Chuck Phillips, Jack Tipping and Ron Warren, WDFW joined the HSRG on June 22 to discuss the technical workshops.

Discussions/Presentations:

On June 21, Jim Waldo welcomed the HSRG to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Michael Kern reviewed the meeting materials. The group then received updates from various HSRG and facilitation team members on hatchery reform-related activities. Barbara Cairns explained that NOAA Fisheries had recently released its revised policy on how hatchery fish are to be considered in Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings. At an event marking the release of the policy, NOAA Administrator Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher stated his support for implementing the HSRG's recommendations.

The HSRG discussed the relationship between its work and ESA issues. The group agreed that it is important for the co-managers to be able to answer questions about how hatchery reform fits with other salmon recovery efforts, like the 4 [d] rule environmental impact statement process and the Shared Strategy for Salmon Recovery in Puget Sound. It is also important that the managers are looking at hatchery/fisheries management issues beyond ESA compliance.

Jim told the HSRG that two meetings had been held recently to introduce the regional processes that will take place this summer. On June 8, representatives of the Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee and the facilitation team presented at the annual Puget Sound co-managers' meeting introducing the policy-level meetings that will be held in each region starting this fall, to make decisions about implementing hatchery reform recommendations. On June 10, the HSRG, WDFW and NWIFC hosted a kick-off meeting to introduce the technical workshops the HSRG will be offering in each region this summer, to precede the co-manager decision making meetings and provide technical tools to help make those meetings successful.

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Mark Glyde provided an update on the hatchery reform coalition, an informal coalition of recreational, fishing and conservation groups that have come together to support hatchery reform. The coalition sent a letter to the co-managers in April, indicating its support for hatchery reform as described by the HSRG. The coalition has recently received briefings on the HSRG's integrated/segregated hatchery programs concept and on a request for additional federal funding for tribal hatchery rehabilitation. The coalition sent a letter to Congress in June in support of that request. The HSRG and facilitation team agreed that it would be valuable to continue developing the relationship between the hatchery reform coalition and the co-managers by having state and tribal representatives address the coalition on their plans for implementation.

The HSRG discussed the relationship between the Hatchery Reform Project and hatchery management on the Columbia River. The group agreed that the tools and principles arising from the Hatchery Reform Project could be useful for Washington's programs on the Columbia and that it would be helpful for Washington to have a consistent approach statewide. Paul Seidel reported that WDFW Director Jeff Koenings has indicated his intent to apply the principles of hatchery reform to all Washington hatchery programs. To this end, Director Koenings has asked Paul to make several presentations on the topic to managers in that system.

Jim updated the HSRG on the Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee. He said the full committee has not met for several months. Instead, the co-manager members of the committee have been meeting, to discuss the work plan and implementation strategy for 2004. The full committee will meet soon, most likely focusing on the topic of integrating hatchery reform with other salmon recovery processes, like the Shared Strategy for Salmon Recovery in Puget Sound.

The HSRG discussed the status of scientific papers it is preparing for the peer-reviewed literature. Lisa Seeb is taking the lead on an essay about the HSRG and Hatchery Reform Project for *Fisheries* magazine. Since she was not in attendance at this meeting, there was no status report on that essay. Connie Mahnken reported back to the HSRG regarding an analysis by an editor at NOAA Fisheries-Manchester regarding the potential for scientific papers to be derived from the April 2004 *Hatchery Reform: Principles and Recommendations of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group* report. The HSRG agreed with the assessment that the HSRG report contains three potentially significant scientific papers: 1) the Scientific Framework; 2) the Integrated/Segregated Concept; and 3) the Wild Fish Template. The HSRG assigned a member to take the lead on each paper, and decided to table a decision on order of publication until a future meeting. The group agreed that its Emerging Issues paper on outplanting and net pens could also be submitted for publication as an essay, with some modification.

The HSRG finished the day by debriefing on the May workshops in Juneau and Anchorage. All attendees felt the workshops went well and that much valuable information was shared. Although there are similarities, the group was impressed by the amount of difference between Washington's and Alaska's hatchery systems, in terms of the historical, political, socioeconomic, scientific and geographic contexts in which they operate.

The HSRG spent June 22 preparing for the one-day, technical workshops to be held in all ten regions over the summer. It was joined during the afternoon by several WDFW representatives who had requested to meet with the HSRG to discuss the workshops. The HSRG explained that

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the workshops' purpose is to help the co-managers understand how to apply the integrated/segregated guidelines in each region and to prepare for the regional, co-manager decision-making meetings to follow. The HSRG, with assistance from the WDFW attendees, developed a draft agenda for the workshops. The agenda devotes most of the day to regional case studies on applying the integrated/segregated hatchery programs concept, and includes time for discussion after each agenda item. Other agenda items include key regional issues, and regional stock structure and goals.

The HSRG established a task team to develop case studies for the first four technical workshops and made a series of revisions to the technical discussion papers it developed in cooperation with WDFW and NWIFC staff during the spring. These will be included with materials provided at the workshops. The group also revised the workshop schedule, in response to requests from several co-managers. The revised schedule is as follows:

- Eastern Straits, July 20, 2004, Silverdale.
- Hood Canal, July 21, 2004, Silverdale.
- Skagit, July 28, 2004, Mount Vernon.
- Stillaguamish/Snohomish, July 29, 2004, Mount Vernon.
- Nooksack/Samish, August 30, 2004, Tacoma.
- South Sound, August 31, 2004, Tacoma.
- Central Sound (East Kitsap and Puyallup), September 1, 2004, Tacoma.
- Central Sound (Lake Washington and Green River), September 2, 2004, Tacoma.
- Willapa Bay, September 14, 2004, Ocean Shores.
- Grays Harbor, September 15, 2004, Ocean Shores.
- North Coast, September 16, 2004, Ocean Shores

The HSRG asked the facilitation team to send out a draft agenda to July workshop participants, with a cover email providing the revised workshop schedule and soliciting suggestions for case studies and regional implementation issues. The HSRG asked its chair and tribal representative to meet with each tribe prior to the workshops, to explain the purpose of the workshops, address concerns, and solicit potential case studies and regional implementation issues.

The HSRG spent June 23 discussing the subject of hatchery reform accountability and how to ensure hatchery programs are managed for success. The HSRG discussed the need for a results-oriented, performance-based hatchery management system with four elements:

1. Making information currently available more valuable in decision-making.
2. Managing in the context of imperfect information and uncertainty.
3. Considering what, if any additional information would be both useful for management and cost-effective to collect.
4. Determining the questions that need to be answered to evaluate the benefits being achieved from hatchery programs.

The HSRG asked the facilitation team to draft a description of this approach, in order to record the HSRG's discussion and make it available for future conversations on this topic with state, tribal and federal fisheries managers.