

# MEETING SUMMARY

## **Hatchery Scientific Review Group Rainier Room, Radisson Hotel, SeaTac Washington July 19-21, 2000**

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**Agenda:** The purpose of this meeting was to complete development of the draft HSRG scientific framework; learn about ocean carrying capacity and Washington's Wild Salmonid Policy; and review example hatchery and genetic management plans (HGMPs).

### **In Attendance:**

- HSRG members John Barr, Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Conrad Mahnken, Lars Moberg (chair), Robert Piper, Lisa Seeb and Bill Smoker.
- Facilitation team members Barbara Cairns, Kathy Hopper, Michael Kern, BJ Mirk and Jim Waldo.
- The Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee met with the HSRG on July 21.
- Several others attended specific agenda items to make presentations, at the request of the HSRG (see below).

### **Discussions/Presentations:**

Jim Waldo welcomed Scientific Group members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda, reminding them that the major focus at this meeting would be completing the scientific framework.

Michael Kern provided an update on Hatchery Reform communications activities. Michael said the joint Scientific Group/Long Live the Kings (LLTK) Report to Congress on the Hatchery Reform Project was sent to Congressional leaders at the end of June. It will also be sent to Washington State House and Senate leadership and key sports fishing, environmental and other stakeholder representatives. It will soon be available from the Hatchery Reform web site, ([www.lltk.org/hatcheryreform.html](http://www.lltk.org/hatcheryreform.html)). The facilitation team is helping the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) strategize for securing funding in the next biennial state budget for capital improvements necessary to implement hatchery reform. LLTK is developing a Hatchery Reform Project PowerPoint presentation. Finally, LLTK is helping WDFW prepare for and will moderate a July 25 briefing for Washington Resource Inventory Areas 8 and 9 on harvest and hatcheries.

The Scientific Group traveled to the Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle for a seminar on Ocean Carrying Capacity by Dr. Richard J. Beamish of the British Columbia Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Dr. Beamish's research suggests that changes in the Earth's rotational speed may affect upwelling in the ocean, therefore changing nutrient availability and ocean carrying capacity for salmon. Dr. Beamish's work with Scientific Group member Dr. Conrad Mahnken further suggests that there is a "critical size/critical period" relationship; that smolts below a certain size do not survive over-wintering in the ocean. This may mean that hatchery

fish have an advantage over wild fish, because they are larger. The group had lunch with Dr. Beamish to conduct a follow-up discussion on the topic.

Returning to SeaTac, the Scientific Group received a presentation from WDFW's Rich Lincoln on the Department's Wild Salmonid Policy. The vision of Wild Salmonid is to provide an integrated framework of guidance for harvest, habitat and hatcheries. It has two components: 1) Healthy and naturally functioning habitat; and 2) Locally adapted populations with good diversity and abundance. It contains general goal statements, performance standards and criteria. It reflects two policies: 1) While providing fisheries, have no significant adverse impact on naturally spawning populations; and 2) Protect and rehabilitate naturally spawning populations.

Wild Salmonid is intended to be a joint policy between the state and the tribes, though no tribes have signed the document. However, both sides have jointly referenced it in policy decisions, so it is having an effect. It is available online at [www.wa.gov/wdfw/fish/wsp/wsp.htm](http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/fish/wsp/wsp.htm). Rich said the Scientific Group can help the Wild Salmonid Policy's implementation by charting a course of measured, scientific change for hatcheries. The Scientific Group agreed that their recommendations should take into account and build on the Wild Salmonid Policy.

The Scientific Group reviewed the presentation it received in June on the co-managers' HatPro database, currently under development. They agreed that now is the time to recommend changes to the program to ensure it collects the right information about hatcheries for scientific assessment. At the request of the group, the Chair appointed Scientific Group members Bob Piper and Connie Mahnken and facilitation team member Kathy Hopper to a Hatchery Data Task Team. In August, this task team will make recommendations on data that should be collected in HatPro for consideration and adoption by the full HSRG.

In consideration of the pressing need to complete the scientific framework, the Scientific Group decided to reschedule its review of example HGMPs for the August meeting.

The Scientific Group held a working dinner and then spent the second day of the meeting working in small groups on sections of the draft scientific framework. On the third day, the group attended a joint lunch meeting with the Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee (see Coordinating Committee July summary) and then discussed how to prepare the framework for an informal review process scheduled for August.

The Scientific Group decided there will be two versions of the scientific framework: 1) an abridged version for general distribution; and a comprehensive, web-based, hyperlinked version containing background information and a level of detail not included in the abridged version. Members Trevor Evelyn and Bob Piper agreed to create the abridged version of the framework. The group agreed to complete and approve the scientific framework by August 4 and provide it to 10–15 informal reviewers on August 7. Several members were assigned responsibility for providing the framework to a group of reviewers and bringing their comments to the August meeting. At that meeting, the group will consider a formal review process for the framework.

The Scientific Group agreed to hold its August 23–24 meeting in Seattle, Washington.