

MEETING SUMMARY

**Hatchery Scientific Review Group
Phoenix Inn Suites, Olympia, WA
July 18-20, 2001**

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to begin the regional review of South Puget Sound.

In Attendance:

- HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Lars Mobernd (chair), Bob Piper, Lisa Seeb, Bill Smoker and alternate Paul Dorn.
- Facilitation team members Barbara Cairns (July 19 only), Kathy Hopper, Michael Kern, Bj Mirk, Michael Schmidt (July 18 and 19 only) and Jim Waldo.
- Regional participants Marianna Alexandersdottir, Jim Bertolini, Kyle Brakensiek, and Willy Eldridge, NWIFC; Bill St. Jean and David Troutt, Nisqually Tribe; Jeff Dickison and Will Henderson, Squaxin Island Tribe; Chuck Baranski, Rich Eltrich, Mary Evans, Jim Fraser, Don Nauer, Darrell Mills, Dave Page, Denis Popochock, and Brian Quinton, WDFW joined the Scientific Group on July 15 to discuss regional goals and current hatchery programs.

Discussions/Presentations:

The regional review began on the evening of July 17 with a tour of WDFW's Tumwater Falls facility. Field tours continued on July 18, as regional participants and the facilitation team provided the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (Scientific Group) with tours of the Nisqually Delta, Lakewood Hatchery, Chambers Creek Trap, Fox Island Net Pens, Minter Creek Hatchery, Hupp Springs Hatchery, Coulter Creek Hatchery, and Kennedy Creek overlook. The Scientific Group toured the Clear Creek Hatchery at a previous meeting.

On July 19, Jim Waldo welcomed Scientific Group members and regional participants to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. He explained that the purpose of the day was to make sure that the Scientific Group has a clear understanding of regional management goals. After that is accomplished, the Scientific Group can consider if current hatchery programs fit with those goals.

Working together, the Scientific Group and regional participants completed the first of four worksheets the Scientific Group uses to apply its Benefit/Risk Tool as part of a regional review. This worksheet—entitled Part 1: Summary of Goals and Current Hatchery Programs—provides a summary of the management agencies' current, short-term and long-term regional goals for habitat, harvest and stock status (biological significance and population viability). The Scientific Group will complete the Parts 2–4 worksheets at the August meeting. These worksheets consider each salmonid species resident in each sub-region identified by the Scientific Group and regional managers:

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1. Chambers Creek Basin (Fort Lewis and north)
2. Nisqually River and Delta
3. Deschutes River
4. Squaxin/South Sound Net Pens and Independent Tributaries
5. Key Peninsula (including Fox Island Net Pens)

In the afternoon, regional participants provided the Scientific Group with a series of specific issues they would like to have addressed as part of the South Sound Regional Review process. The Scientific Group determined that the most of these issues will be addressed by their usual review, but agreed that task teams should be established to respond to the regional managers' request that they assess the Nisqually fall chinook supplementation program and look into chinook and coho run timing issues. The Scientific Group also determined that water quality at entry to a hatchery would be a good research topic and should be solicited for their research grant program. The Scientific Group and the regional managers agreed that the South Sound review should consider only White River chinook releases into Minter Creek. Releases into the White River will be evaluated when the Scientific Group reaches that region.

On July 20, the Scientific Group began by discussing annual reports recently received from recipients of FY 2000 HSRG research grants. The group decided that the same task teams that reviewed research progress reports last fall will review the annual reports. Lee Blankenship agreed to distribute the annual reports to Scientific Group members after the meeting, on CD-ROM.

The Scientific Group also discussed its review of the Elwha Restoration Plan (ERP), an element of the Eastern Straits Regional Review that is ongoing. The group decided that individual member assignments for this review will be due by the August meeting, so that a Scientific Group task team can hold an informal review of the ERP with the Elwha Technical Restoration Group by the end of August. The Scientific Group also established a task team to draft a letter in the meantime, reviewing the general concepts included in the ERP.

The Scientific Group considered what information gaps still existed in their knowledge about the South Sound region after having reviewed the briefing book, received field tours, and completed the Part 1 worksheet with the regional managers. They determined that it would be useful to have a South Sound stock transfer chart showing which fish are moved between what facilities in the region. Lee Blankenship agreed to provide such a chart for the next meeting. The group also observed that there was little information provided about the benefits of South Sound regional programs, with the exception of the Squaxin Net Pens. The facilitation team will incorporate material that arrived too late to be included in the July version of the briefing book into a revised version, for the August meeting.

At the end of the meeting, the Scientific Group considered upcoming meetings through the end of the year. The facilitation team will work with the chair and vice chairs to set the agenda for the August meeting. The facilitation team also agreed to merge the April regional information instruction sheet with and the May regional report outline with a list of sub-regional species. This new document will be provided to the third pilot region, Stillaguamish/Snohomish, to guide their information gathering and organizing. The facilitation team will also diagram how the

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information provided in the workbooks, briefings and tours will be fed into the Scientific Group's tools and ultimately into a regional report. The Scientific Group selected the following dates and locations for the November and December 2001 meetings:

- November 12-16, SeaTac
- December 18 & 19, SeaTac