

# MEETING SUMMARY

## Hatchery Scientific Review Group Hawthorne Inn & Suites, Arlington, WA September 16–19, 2001

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**Agenda:** The purpose of this meeting was to begin the regional review of the Stillaguamish and Snohomish Rivers region.

### **In Attendance:**

- HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Lars Moberg (chair), and Bob Piper. Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Connie Mahnken, and Lisa Seeb attended on September 18 and 19. Alternate Paul Dorn attended on September 19.
- Facilitation team members Barbara Cairns (September 17 and 18), Kathleen Hopper, Michael Kern, Bj Mirk, Michael Schmidt and Jim Waldo.
- Regional participants Marianna Alexandersdottir, Kyle Brakensiek and Willy Eldridge, NWIFC; Kip Killebrew and Shawn Yanity, Stillaguamish Tribe; Marla Maxwell and Kit Rawson, Tulalip Tribes; Charmane Ashbrook, Mike Chamblin, Doug Hatfield, Larry Klube, Curt Kraemer, Chuck Lavier, Darrell Mills, Steve Moore, Jed Varney and Ron Warren, WDFW joined the Scientific Group on September 18 to discuss regional goals and current hatchery programs. Kip Killebrew, Stillaguamish Tribe; Cliff Bengston, Tulalip Tribes; Charmane Ashbrook, Doug Hatfield, Dave Jones, Larry Klube, Chuck Lavier, Darrell Mills, Steve Moore, Jed Varney and Ron Warren, WDFW joined the Scientific Group on September 19 to discuss regional hatchery operations guidelines.

### **Discussions/Presentations:**

The regional review began on the evening of September 16 with a tour of Tulalip Bay and the Tulalip Tribes' Bernie Gobin Hatchery. After that, Kit Rawson of the Tulalip Tribes made a presentation on an otolith study focusing on the contribution of hatchery fish to the Tulalip Bay fishery and to natural and hatchery spawning escapement.

Field tours continued on September 17, as regional participants and the facilitation team provided the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (Scientific Group) with tours of the Whitehorse Hatchery, Arlington Hatchery, Armstrong/ Harvey Creek Hatchery (Stillaguamish Tribe), Wallace River Hatchery, Reiter Ponds and Tokul Creek Hatchery.

On September 18, Jim Waldo welcomed Scientific Group members and regional participants to the meeting, led a round of introductions and reviewed the agenda. Jim provided an overview of the Hatchery Reform Project and the Regional Review process. He explained that the purpose of the day was to ensure 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.

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Scientific Group Chair Lars Mobrand introduced 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).

Kip Killebrew of the Stillaguamish Tribe presented a slide show detailing the extensive amount of Stillaguamish River watershed habitat data that have been collected by the Tribe. These data demonstrate that the watershed has been heavily altered and compromised by land use activities such as logging, diking, housing development and dairy farming. Present-day population growth could result in a future watershed resembling areas like Mill Creek and Canyon Park, which were once rural in character and are now urbanized. Run-off is an increasing problem. Stream complexity is decreasing. Heavy flows and warmer temperatures in the river are more common.

Working together, the Scientific Group and regional participants completed the Part 1 worksheet, considering each salmonid species resident in each of three sub-regions identified by the Scientific Group and regional managers prior to the meeting: 1) Stillaguamish, 2) Snohomish, and 3) Tulalip Bay and Independent Tributaries.

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 Stillaguamish/Snohomish Regional Review process. The Scientific Group determined that many of these issues will be addressed by their usual review, but assigned individual members and task teams to respond to several requests that will require special attention.

On September 19, Kathleen Hopper, Darrell Mills and Charmane Ashbrook provided a slide show and narrative describing the regional field tours, for the benefit of three Scientific Group members who were not able to attend on September 16 and 17. Scientific Group Part 3 task teams then met with regional hatchery managers to gather the information necessary to complete the Part 3 worksheets (Culture Methods Evaluation, Accountability/Education Evaluation, Physical/Morphological/Ecological Evaluation, Genetics/Conservation Evaluation). The task teams will complete the Part 3 worksheets between meetings.

The Scientific Group decided to complete the Part 2 (Is Current Hatchery Program Consistent with Long-Term and Short-Term Goals?) and Part 4 (Recommendations and Alternatives) worksheets concurrently, at the October meeting. They also requested that time be set aside on the agenda for WDFW's Curt Kraemer to address several issues of special concern to him and to consider the other specific issues raised by regional managers.

The Scientific Group concluded the meeting by discussing several other issues relevant to hatchery reform and the regional review process. Lars Mobrand agreed to contact the Elwha Fisheries Technical Group (EFTG) to follow up on the Scientific Group's August 20 Elwha Restoration Plan informal review session. Now that the Nisqually fall chinook adaptive management/monitoring and evaluation plan has been provided to the Scientific Group, the task team established to respond to the regional managers' request for a review of this plan will draft a response memo on this topic. The Scientific Group confirmed that the same task teams that

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reviewed research progress reports last fall will review the annual reports. The same evaluation criteria used for the progress reports will be used for the annual reports, which are to be ready for the October meeting.

The Scientific Group agreed that the state and the tribes should provide periodic reports on the steps they are taking to achieve hatchery reform. On behalf of the Scientific Group, Don Campton will attend the Wild Salmon Center's November 5-6, 2001 Pacific Rim Wild Salmon and Steelhead Conference in Portland, OR.

The Scientific Group chair, vice chairs and facilitation team will attend the September 28 Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee meeting, which will focus on an update on the regional review process and a discussion of 2002 work plan and funding priorities. The Scientific Group will propose a focus for 2002 on: 1) a second round of regional reviews; and 2) implementing recommendations for regions already reviewed.