

# MEETING SUMMARY

## Hatchery Scientific Review Group WestCoast Hotel, Silverdale, Washington October 24–26, 2000

**Agenda:** The purpose of this meeting was to review HSRG research progress reports; discuss the upcoming research review and the next round of research proposals; receive a presentation on salmonid meta-populations and Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) definitions; consider the comments received as a result of the public review process for the draft HSRG Scientific Framework; receive an update on the Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee; plan for a regional review of the Puget Sound and Coastal Washington Hatchery System; and continue receiving an overview of the system.

### **In Attendance:**

- HSRG members John Barr (and alternate Paul Dorn), Lee Blankenship (vice chair), Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Conrad Mahnken, Lars Mobrand (chair), Robert Piper, Lisa Seeb and Bill Smoker.
- Facilitation team members Kathy Hopper, Michael Kern, Bj Mirk and Jim Waldo. Barbara Cairns was in attendance on October 25.
- David Teel of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Bob Wunderlich of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Terry Wright of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) attended specific agenda items to make presentations, at the request of the HSRG (see below).

### **Discussions/Presentations:**

Michael Kern welcomed Hatchery Scientific Review Group (Scientific Group) members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Lee Blankenship provided the Scientific Group with progress reports from researchers who received grants as part of the Scientific Group's 2000 research grant program. The Scientific Group assigned two or three members (including at least one non-agency member) to review each progress report. Reviewer group comments will be assembled into one progress report review document by the next meeting.

Lee said there is a great deal of interest in the 2001 research grant program. He presented a draft 2001 Call for Pre-Proposals for HSRG Research. The Scientific Group made suggestions for revision. Lee agreed send out the revised version by November 1, 2000. The Scientific Group will review the pre-proposals it receives at its January meeting.

The Scientific Group asked Lisa Seeb to serve as the lead for a February 12–13, 2001 Research Review. The group reviewed a draft agenda for that meeting and made suggestions for changes.

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David Teel of NMFS made a presentation to the Scientific Group on salmonid meta-populations and Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) definitions. He explained that a Puget Sound Technical Recovery Team has been working to identify independent population units for chinook salmon in Puget Sound. These units will be used to set goals for recovery. These goals may differ by population. There are also state and federal Genetic Diversity Unit (GDU) documents that David recommended the Scientific Group review. He said that the Scientific Group's proposed regions for Puget Sound and the coast would not improperly split populations, as long as they do not split GDUs.

David said that samples taken over many years help researchers to establish "genetic distances" and "major races" of chinook salmon. The history seems to be that during the last ice age, the ice sheet reached down to the confluence of the Snake River. Salmon retreated to the Bering Refuge and south of the ice, and then recolonized the Northwest after the ice receded. He also said that coho salmon exhibit lower levels of variability than chinook, perhaps because of their rigid brood cycle.

In reviewing comments received as part of the Scientific Framework's public review process, the Scientific Group decided to split them into revisions to be made by the Framework working groups and issues to be addressed in the upcoming Hatchery Reform Action Plan process. Comments were reviewed in this manner and assignments made. Working group members agreed to get their revisions to the facilitation team in early November. The facilitation team will make grammatical revisions and finalize the Framework document. It will then be made available from the Hatchery Reform web site.

Jim Waldo updated the Scientific Group on the Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee's (Coordinating Committee) most recent meeting, held September 29, 2000. He said Lars Moberg described to the Committee progress made on the Scientific Framework and presented the Scientific Group's proposal for a Hatchery Reform Action Plan for 2001 (see details in Regional Review and 2001 Work Plan discussions below). The Coordinating Committee liked this approach of building on existing tools and processes and taking advantage of work done to date by the co-managers. The Coordinating Committee made a few small modifications to the Scientific Group's proposed list of regions for the regional review process, but otherwise approved the list and the Scientific Group's choices for pilot regions.

Kathy Hopper updated the Scientific Group on the Northwest Fish Culture Conference to be held in Sacramento in December 2000. The facilitation team sent a flyer in late October to the conference organizers detailing the Scientific Group's plans for a panel on the topic Hatchery Reform Efforts in the West and calling for participants and attendees. Kathy has already begun receiving responses from people interested in participating. Lee Blankenship will make a presentation at the conference on the Hatchery Reform Project.

Barbara Cairns updated the Scientific Group on Hatchery Reform Project communications activities. She said the Framework public review process was a major communications undertaking for the facilitation team, with copies being provided to over 225 people representing the full range of organizations interested in hatchery reform. The facilitation team has also been meeting with individual stakeholders to explain the project and elicit their opinions. Feedback

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has so far been very positive. The facilitation team attended NWIFC's October 24 meeting and—at the request of the Commission's chairman and executive director—will be meeting with each Puget Sound and coastal tribe to discuss the project. The Puget Sound Salmon Leadership Forum will be sponsoring a three-day meeting in January ("Port Ludlow II") to review a proposed Shared Strategy for salmon recovery in Puget Sound. Hatchery reform will be an integral piece of that strategy. Barbara also announced that the Hatchery Reform Project is slated to receive \$5 million for FY 2001 in the US Department of Interior appropriations bill.

Jim Waldo led the Scientific Group in a discussion about the next steps for hatchery reform and a work plan for 2001. The Scientific Group agreed to establish work groups to adapt the co-managers' benefit/risk tool for use in the regional review process, help identify questions that the managers will need to address during the regional reviews, and work with the co-managers to develop an initial draft of proposed operational guidelines. In addition, the work groups responsible for specific sections of the Scientific Framework will review the framework, identify research needs and develop additional monitoring and evaluation criteria for their sections. These work groups will present their results for consideration at the December meeting.

The Scientific Group also agreed to the following approach within each region to conduct the reviews:

- | <u>Current</u>  | <u>Future</u> (need to define a time frame) |
|---|---|
| A. Conservation goals + harvest goals = complete set of goals for a region. |   |
| B. 1. Current Habitat   | Assumed Future Habitat                      |
| 2. Current Stock Status (population)  | Future projections                          |
| 3. Current Hatchery Programs  | Future Programs                             |
| a. goals  |   |
| b. operations   |   |
| C. Compare A and B above to determine if the goals are:                     |   |
| 1. realistic  |   |
| 2. not realistic or are in conflict   |   |

The approach will be expanded on at the December meeting and the Group will determine what is needed from managers within each region to prepare for the reviews. This information will be forwarded to the three pilot regions in December. At its December meeting, the Scientific Group will focus on what resources are needed from WDFW, NWIFC, and USFWS to accomplish the tasks and timelines agreed to in the 2001 Work Plan:

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<b>Task</b>	<b>Jan to April 2001</b>	<b>May - July 2001</b>	<b>August - Dec 2001</b>
HSRG Research	—————→		
Conduct Regional Reviews		—————→ Initial regional reviews (South Sound, Stillaguamish / Snohomish River, Lower Straits and Hood Canal)	—————→ Remaining regions
Benefit/Risk tool	—————→ Develop expanded BRAP	—————→ Field test in initial regions	
Operational Guidelines	—————→ Task Group develop initial draft operational guidelines	—————→ Field test guidelines in initial regions	—————→ Revise guidelines if needed
Monitoring & Evaluation	TBD		
Funding	Funding for physical changes using HGMPs	Identify 2002 funding needs	

The Scientific Group moved to the NMFS Manchester facility to receive an overview of the USFWS and tribal hatchery systems in Puget Sound and coastal Washington from Bob Wunderlich of USFWS and Terry Wright of NWIFC, respectively. Bob explained that the USFWS hatcheries include the Quilcene National Fish Hatchery (NFH), the Quinault NFH and the Makah NFH. These facilities support tribal and non-tribal fisheries and are coordinated by a Steering Committee and a five-member USFWS Hatchery Evaluation Team. Bob provided overview documents of the three NFHs and a Broodyear Report for the NFHs in 1997–98.

Terry provided an overview of the Western Washington tribal hatchery system, including each facility’s history, structures, goals and needs. Thirty-one facilities were profiled. Terry also provided the NWIFC Enhancement Services’ July-September 2000 “Hot Sheet,” the flyer that NWIFC produces and distributes to communicate hatchery-related issues of interest to its member tribes.

The Scientific Group agreed to hold its next meeting December 6–8, 2000 in SeaTac, Washington.