

MEETING SUMMARY

Hatchery Scientific Review Group December 13–15, 2004, Courtyard by Marriott, SeaTac

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to receive an update on co-manager decision-making meetings; develop criteria for measuring success and accountability at hatchery programs; make progress on several scientific publications; discuss a draft 2005 work plan and budget for the Hatchery Reform Project; discuss hatchery-related research; and receive updates on a number of hatchery reform-related topics.

In Attendance:

1. HSRG members John Barr (vice chair), Lee Blankenship (vice chair, December 14 and 15), Don Campton (December 14 and 15), Trevor Evelyn, Connie Mahnken, Lars Mobernd (chair), Paul Seidel and Bill Smoker.
2. Facilitation team members Barbara Cairns (December 13 and 14), Betsy Daniels (December 13 and 14), Michael Kern, Bj Mirk, Michael Schmidt and Jim Waldo.

Discussions/Presentations:

On December 13, Jim Waldo welcomed the HSRG to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Michael Kern reviewed the meeting materials. Barbara Cairns provided a Hatchery Reform Project facilitation and communications update. Barbara said that Congress passed, and the President signed, an omnibus appropriations bill containing \$2.5 million for the final year of implementation planning for the Hatchery Reform Project. The Budget Task Team used this figure to put together a draft 2005 project budget. This budget will be finalized at the December 20 Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee meeting. The HSRG chair and vice chairs will attend this meeting. Barbara said she, Don Campton and Michael Kern presented to the Mountaineers in Seattle on November 30. LLTK will continue to communicate to the conservation community on the principles, recommendations and tools resulting from the Hatchery Reform Project.

The HSRG then discussed the upcoming annual report to Congress on the Hatchery Reform Project. The group agreed that the report will focus on progress toward achieving properly integrated or segregated programs, to meet stock goals. The report will also highlight demonstration of institutional change and co-management, using the HSRG's principles, system-wide recommendations and tools. WDFW and NWIFC will collect information from individual regions and tribes for use in the report and other hatchery-related processes. The HSRG will wait until it has received the regional information before making final decisions about the outline and format for the report. In general, it will be a progress report on the first year of post-review, implementation planning and making reform operational.

The HSRG spent the remainder of December 13 and most of December 14 working on draft criteria for managing toward success and accountability at hatchery programs. The HSRG concluded that this work should result in draft monitoring tools that can be refined with and

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made available to the co-managers. These tools would include a “control panel” and forms that interface with existing monitoring databases, to generate reports that make credible, quality information readily available to decision-makers, funders/”investors” (including elected officials) and the public. The focus will be on making the most important information available, within the restrictions of limited resources, and tapping existing databases. The HSRG created a task team to continue working on these tools between meetings.

The HSRG began December 14 with a discussion on its research program. The HSRG decided to host a research review at its February 2005 meeting in Seattle. Requested presentations will include the five HSRG 2004 research grantees; state/tribal/federal hatchery-reform supported researchers; and several other related research projects in which HSRG members are interested. The HSRG also agreed that, given budget limitation, the group will request 2005 proposals from only a subset of current HSRG research grant recipients. The HSRG will make decisions on these proposals at the February meeting. The HSRG also intends to complete a hatchery research agenda in time for the planned September 2005 hatchery reform conference.

The HSRG concluded December 14 with a discussion on the Hatchery Reform Project 2005 work plan. The HSRG agreed that its work for the year would revolve around scientific publications, meeting with other scientists, developing tools for managing toward success and accountability, creating a research agenda while maintaining a small research grant program, and helping to host a hatchery reform conference.

On December 15, the HSRG discussed several scientific publications and technical papers the group is in the process of completing. These include publications on the integrated/segreated concept and how it is applied to management via its fitness implications (including the AHA tool). Also under development is a technical paper providing guidance on when to start a conservation hatchery program. Other publications and papers will be developed once these top priority items are drafted and/or submitted.

The HSRG confirmed the following dates and locations for meetings in the first part of 2005:

- January 12–14, 2005, Tukwila
- February 22–24, 2005, Seattle (includes research review)
- March 14–16, 2005, Tukwila

The HSRG decided to address elections and other administrative issues at the January meeting.