

An Overview of NOAA Fisheries' Upcoming Consultations on Hatcheries

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Setting the Stage for Hatchery Consultations:

- NOAA Oceans and Marine Life Strategy
- 2008-2018 FCRPS Biological Opinion
- 2008-2017 *US v. Oregon* Harvest Management Agreement Biological Opinion
- 2008 FCRPS Supplemental Comprehensive Analysis



- Fisheries & Aquaculture
- Alternative Energy
- Military Readiness
- Bioprospecting
- Coastal Development

- Ocean Biodiversity
- Protected Species
- Vulnerable Habitats
- Coastal Communities
- Cultural Resources

Balancing the Sustainable Use and Protection of the Oceans and Coasts

Hatcheries in the FCRPS Biological Opinion

- Action Agencies fund approx. 100 hatchery programs
- RPAs 39 – 42 in the FCRPS BiOp address hatchery:
 - Overall Objective
 - Criteria
 - Strategies
 - Plans
 - Actions
 - Reports

Overall Hatchery Objective in the FCRPS Biological Opinion

“The overall hatchery objective for all ESUs is to fund FCRPS mitigation hatchery programs in a way that contributes to reversing the decline of downward-trending ESUs.”

Hatchery Strategies in the FCRPS Biological Opinion

- “Hatchery Strategy 1 -- Ensure that hatchery programs funded by the FCRPS Action Agencies ... are not impeding recovery of ESUs or steelhead DPSs”
- “Hatchery Strategy 2 -- Preserve and rebuild the genetic resources through safety-net and conservation actions to reduce short-term extinction risk and promote recovery.”

Hatchery Funding and Site Specific Consultations in RPA 39

- “The FCRPS Action Agencies will continue funding hatcheries in accordance with existing programs and will adopt programmatic criteria for funding decisions ...”
- “... Site specific application of (**Best Management Practices**) will be defined in ESA Section 7, Section 10 or Section 4(d) consultations with NOAA Fisheries to be initiated and conducted by hatchery operators with the Action Agencies as cooperating agencies.”

“Best Available Science”

“Each Federal agency shall, in consultation with and with the assistance of the Secretary, insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency ... is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species In fulfilling the requirements of this paragraph each agency shall use the **best scientific and commercial data available.**” ESA Sec. 7 (a)(2)

Initial Schedule for Consultations

- Update and complete Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs)
- Consultation on site specific programs:
 - January 2009 to July 2009 for Upper Columbia (see handout)
 - July 2009 to January 2010 for Middle Columbia
 - February 2010 to August 2010 for Snake

US v Oregon Agreement

- Biological Opinion on the Agreement was completed on May 5
- The joint fishery proposal contained in the Agreement is covered by a NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion
- Hatchery programs identified in the agreement will be the subject of future NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinions

2008 Draft Fish and Wildlife Program

- Section II D 3: Basinwide Provisions, Strategies for Artificial Production
- “The science of this issue is far from settled. The Council will consider standards ... based on the recommendations of from the Hatchery Science Review Group...” (p 31)

2008 Draft Fish and Wildlife Program

- “The Council ... has adopted the following strategies...”

The multiyear review of artificial production established a set of standards and this program incorporates those standards as minimum standards for artificial production projects (paraphrased from page 31)

Opportunities for Coordination?

- FCRPS BiOp
 - Upcoming site specific hatchery consultations
 - US v Oregon
 - Council's Fish and Wildlife Program
 - other
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- ◆ HSRG, ISAB, ISRP, NOAA Fisheries Science Center, USFWS hatchery review, Comanagers, others