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October 25, 2012

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

**FROM:** Tony Grover, Fish and Wildlife Division Director

**SUBJECT:** Presentation on ESA reviews of Hatchery Genetic Management plans, supplementation and hatchery policies – Rob Jones and Craig Busack, NOAA Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries' Salmon Management Division staff, Craig Busack, Senior Scientist, Rob Jones, Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Branch Chief and Bob Turner, Salmon Management Division Assistant Regional Administrator, will brief the Council on key aspects of NOAA's hatchery program. Topics covered include:

- Hatchery strategies and examples for ESA recovery
- ESA section 7 consultation approach and examples
- Mitchell Act update



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**  
Northwest  
Region

# NOAA Fisheries & Columbia Basin Hatcheries

November 6, 2012

Presentation to the Northwest Power and  
Conservation Council



# Today's Focus

- NOAA's Role
- Hatchery Perspective
- Implementation Scenarios
- Aspirations



# NOAA's Role

1. ESA & Treaty/Trust Rights
2. Mitchell Act and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund



# NOAA's Perspective on Hatcheries

For the foreseeable future, hatcheries will play a vital role in mitigating for habitat loss, including operation of the hydropower system, and the implementation of treaty rights.



# NOAA's Perspective on Hatcheries

- Proven tool for mitigation and gene conservation
- There are risks
- Tailor to fit
- Mandatory monitoring and evaluation



# Guidance for HGMP Development

- Policies
- Recovery Planning
- NOAA Biological Opinions



# Guidance for HGMP Development

- Status of the population
- Role of the population in recovery
- Environmental baseline
- Limiting factors
- Affects on VSP





# NOAA's Evaluations

- Benefits from hatchery supplementation
- Risk reduction for harvest programs
- Evaluation methodology is described in NOAA's Biological Opinions



# Implementation Scenarios

- Salmon River spring/summer Chinook salmon
- Upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon

# Upper Salmon spring/summer Chinook Salmon

Population	Recovery VSP Risk Objective	Hatchery program (s) present?
North Fork Salmon R.	Moderate	No
Panther Cr. (ext.)	None	Proposed
Lemhi R.	Low	No
Salmon mainstem below RFL	Moderate	No
Pahsimeroi R.	Low	Yes
East Fork Salmon R.	Low	No
Yankee Fork	Moderate	Yes
Valley Cr.	Low	No
Salmon mainstem. above RFL	Low	Yes

# Upper Columbia River spring Chinook Salmon

Population	Recovery VSP Risk Objective	Hatchery program (s) present?
Wenatchee R.	Low	Yes
Entiat R.	Low	Discontinued
Methow R.	Low	Yes
Okanogan R. (ext.)	None	Planned



# Wenatchee River Spring Chinook Salmon

- Harvest Program—Leavenworth
- Conservation Programs—Chiwawa, Nason/White

An underwater photograph showing several fish swimming in clear, greenish water. The fish are of various species, including what appear to be salmon and other large fish. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a shallow depth.

# Entiat River Spring Chinook Salmon

- Discontinue the spring Chinook salmon program – factor limiting recovery
- Substitute summer Chinook



# Methow River Spring Chinook Salmon

- Harvest program (Winthrop NFH)
- Conservation program (Methow SFH) and test reduced pHOS



# Okanogan River Spring Chinook Salmon

- Reintroduction using Winthrop fish
- Experimental Population Status





# Moving Forward

We will continue to:

- Advance treaty trust rights *and* recovery
- Move forward by example
- First good HGMP in the door
- Verify & improve