

The Columbia River Hatchery Reform Project

Who authorized this project?

In 2005, Congress directed that an independent review of hatchery programs be conducted in the Columbia River Basin to replicate the Puget Sound and coastal Washington hatchery reform project. The Columbia River Basin Hatchery Reform Project will include a collaborative review of how harvest and hatcheries can contribute to meeting conservation goals and harvest opportunities that are compatible with conservation goals. The authorization calls for an independent scientific review of all populations in the Basin. It also calls for collaboration with action agencies, the NWPCC and other ongoing processes.

What is the purpose of the Hatchery Reform Project (HRP)?

The Columbia Basin has the most extensive salmon and steelhead hatcheries in the world. They function under obligations to serve interests across six western states and Canada. They also must comply with various local, state, treaty and federal authorities. A scientifically sound and well coordinated approach to operating hatchery programs is needed to meet conservation goals and provide harvest opportunities that are consistent with those conservation goals.

The purpose of this project is to develop a management approach that allows tribal, state and federal managers to effectively manage Columbia River Basin hatcheries to meet conservation and harvest goals consistent with their respective legal responsibilities. This will require a sequence of decisions to be made that a) are based on broad policy agreements and, b) are supported by consistent technical and scientific information about hatcheries, habitat and harvest.

Who will conduct reviews of the hatchery and natural populations?

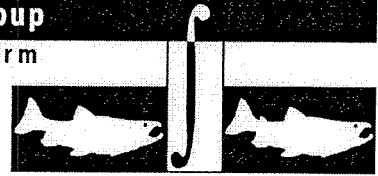
Science Team: A Technical Team, led by Dr. Lars Mobernd, will do the technical work to support the scientific review process and develop the analytical tools necessary to implement a performance-based system. The Technical Team will work in consultation with a Columbia River Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) to review over 200 hatchery and 90 wild populations in the Basin.

In order to maintain consistency with the principles developed in Puget Sound and coastal Washington, the HSRG is comprised of some scientists from that early Hatchery Reform Project, and some scientists with more experience in the Columbia Basin. Members include:

• Dr. Lars Mobernd, Chair	• John Barr, Unaffiliated Scientist
• Dr. Trevor Evelyn, Unaffiliated Scientist	• Tom Flagg, NOAA Fisheries
• Steve Smith, Unaffiliated Scientist	• Paul Seidel, WDFW
• Lee Blankenship, Unaffiliated Scientist	• Mike Delarm, NOAA Fisheries
• Dr. Dave Fast, YN	• Paul Kline, IDFG
• Dr. Jeff Gislison, BPA	• George Nandor, ODFW
• Dr. Don Campton, USFWS	• Dr. Peter Paquet, NWPCC

Because the HRP is an independent review, the scientists who work for a particular agency are responsible for evaluating the scientific merits and are not to represent agency policies.

Hatchery Scientific Review Group
Pacific Salmon Hatchery Reform



Facilitation and Policy: The Facilitation Team, led by Jim Waldo, is helping with policy development for the HRP with the assistance of a newly formed Steering Committee of key Basin leaders. The Steering Committee will help coordinate with the other on-going initiatives in the Basin. Steering Committee members are managers of hatchery programs in the Basin. The Steering Committee ensures that the Columbia River HRP is an effective, collaborative process. Collaboration with the Steering Committee will also help transition the scientific group's recommendations into a performance-based management system that works as a conduit for the managers to implement reforms. Members of the Steering Committee include:

- Ed Bowles, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Kat Brigham, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation*
- Claude Broncho, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall
- Jody Calica, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Dan Diggs, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Steve Huffaker, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Dave Johnson, Nez Perce Tribe*
- Rob Jones, NOAA Fisheries & Co-Chair of the BiOp Remand Harvest and Hatchery Work Group
- Jeff Koenings, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Guy Norman, WDFW & Co-Chair of the BiOp Remand Harvest and Hatchery Work Group
- Joe Peone, Confederated Tribes of the Colville
- Phillip Rigdon, Yakama Indian Nation

* Invited

In addition to this Committee, the Facilitation Team and the Columbia River Hatchery Scientific Review Group will work closely with other governmental and local parties to ensure that their needs are considered. This effort could establish a sounding board, special task groups or ways to augment communication or add needed judgment or expertise to the project.

How will the hatchery reviews be conducted?

The HSRG has laid out a schedule that will allow them to review the hatchery and wild populations in the Basin within a two year time frame. They have divided the Basin into 13 review regions that represent watersheds in the Basin. The scientists are also developing a sophisticated tool to help with their analysis referred to as the "Managing for Success" or (MFS) tool.

Prior to reviewing programs in a given region, the Technical Team will gather and verify the data that is used in the reviews with the hatchery Program Managers. There will also be a number of workshops to show the managers how the MFS tool works prior to the reviews. The scientists will then tour the hatchery facilities in the area, deliberate on a set of options that could help the managers meet their program goals and recovery goals, and then informally present their recommendations to the managers in that particular region and discuss the options as well as specific recommendations. The scientists will not address legal issues during their reviews. After discussions with the managers, the Scientists will develop a set of formal recommendations that will include the managers' comments. The final report will be forwarded to Congressional members and their staff and be made available to governments, interested parties and the public.

For more information about the Columbia River Hatchery Reform project, please visit our website at www.HatcheryReform.US.