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May 5, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Mark Fritsch

SUBJECT: Update on Informal Hatchery Work Group and Story Map

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Mark Fritsch

Summary: The Informal Hatchery Workgroup, hosted by Council member Guy Norman, have met four times over the past year. The intent of the group is to support a regional collaborative and communicative effort to provide an updated understanding of progress that has occurred over the past 20-plus years with respect to mitigation and conservation objectives of hatcheries that will assist in guiding regionally coordinated approaches to hatchery needs and information into the future. The group to-date has created a mission statement and prioritized the need to foster better communication to the public, researchers, managers, and decision-makers, and to tell an updated story of Columbia River Basin fish hatcheries in an integrated, clear manner that explains the various purposes of hatcheries. To achieve this effort the group is supporting the use of Story Maps and infographics to tell the story of fish hatcheries and provide communication tools for the region.

Relevance: The Informal Hatchery Workgroup efforts address a need that has been identified over the past three decades. Many past artificial production efforts have been supported by the Council's fish and wildlife program, but most recently the need has been highlighted in the [2011 RME & AP Category review](#), [Research Review](#), numerous ISRP reviews (ISRP

documents [2010-44A](#) and [2018-8](#)) and confirmed and supported by the managers at the Regional Coordination Forum (RCF) meetings in February and August 2019.

Workplan: Fish and Wildlife Division preliminary work plan 2020; Program Implementation (2014 Program and 2020 addendum); Program Performance, and other program implementation.

Background: From the first workgroup meeting of May 2, 2019 and through numerous comments, ideas and suggestions from the following workgroup subsequent meetings and the RCF on how to guide hatcheries into the future, it was clear that it is critical to understand this complex issue, and many aspects of this effort need to be better defined. One common issue expressed by everyone is the need to share the success and importance of artificial production activities in meeting mitigation and conservation objectives in the Columbia River Basin. To further the work groups discussion the following high-level mission statement was developed.

Mission Statement

The hatchery workgroup is committed to supporting a common vision for the Columbia River Basin that supports abundant, healthy wild fish and effective resident and anadromous fish hatcheries. We support adequate funding for artificial fish production activities which are vital to the near and long-term success of Columbia River mitigation, while benefitting or minimizing impacts on wild fish.

- The use of hatcheries in the Columbia River Basin was initiated in the mid-19th century with the purpose of replacing depleted wild fish runs due to activities and development in the Basin.*
- Today, Columbia Basin hatcheries primarily fulfill hydropower mitigation obligations supporting cultural, socioeconomic and conservation needs in the Pacific Northwest*
- The sciences associated with hatcheries and interactions with native fish species in the Columbia River Basin have been extensive. Modern hatchery operations have incorporated extensive research and collaboration among scientists and managers to maximize benefits of hatcheries and minimize impacts to wild fish.*
- Fish managers have updated hatchery strategies and operations throughout the Basin to improve culture and fish health, survival, fitness, straying, and ecological impacts, with the objective to meet their original purpose, including support for wild fish recovery.*
- Wild fish conservation and protection is an important purpose of some hatcheries providing unique opportunities for the recovery of populations.*
- The story of Columbia Basin fish hatcheries needs to be updated and told in an integrated, clear manner that explains the various*

purposes of hatcheries; how they have changed over time to meet cultural and mitigation goals; how they minimize impacts on wild fish; and how they fit in the regional picture of fisheries management.

- *We need to foster better communication to the public, but also among researchers, managers, and decision-makers. That communication should lead to agreement on a common vision of fish propagation needs and priorities in the basin, and the exchange of information for the benefit of the resident and anadromous fish and use of the hatchery tool.*
- *Challenges exist. Given the status of many wild fish populations and the continued need for hatcheries to mitigate for the diminished wild populations, the region needs open, non-polarized discussions on using hatcheries while supporting wild fish management in an adaptive manner.*

Following the development of the mission statement the workgroup determined that the story of Columbia Basin fish hatcheries needs to be reported in an integrated, clear manner that explains the purposes of hatcheries and improvements that have been made to meet those purposes. Uncertainties and challenges also needed to be described to better understand limiting factors and risks. As part of this effort there is a need also to assemble an inventory of hatchery facilities in the basin by funder, background information, evolution of original purpose to current purpose, production goals and objectives, and unmet needs including research. This effort continues the development of the Council's [Program tracker](#) and [mapper](#) tool through the use of existing information (e.g., StreamNet, HGMP's, HSRG, Ad Hoc, APRE and etc.). To accomplish this the workgroup has chosen to develop [Story Maps, infographics and handouts](#) to inform the region.

More Info:

- Informal Hatchery Workgroup [web page](#)
- Resource maps for the fish and wildlife program's [hatcheries](#)
- Hatcheries - Columbia River Basin [Story Maps, infographics and handouts](#)