

W. Bill Booth
Chair
Idaho

James A. Yost
Idaho

Tom Karier
Washington

Dick Wallace
Washington



Bruce A. Measure
Vice-Chair
Montana

Rhonda Whiting
Montana

Melinda S. Eden
Oregon

Joan M. Dukes
Oregon

July 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Peter Paquet, Manager Wildlife & Resident Fish

SUBJECT: Update on the future role of the HSRG

DISCUSSION

The Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) completed its Report to Congress on Columbia River Basin Hatchery Reform and System-Wide Report on Columbia River Basin Hatchery Reform in March of this year. The products from these reports are available for use on the HSRG web site, www.hatcheryreform.us. The products include the HSRG recommendations on all salmon populations in the Columbia Basin, data sets and tools to assist in future analysis.

As the hatchery reform process moves forward towards implementation, the objectives of the HSRG must be adapted accordingly. A potential role for the HSRG would entail a shift from a review role to one of assisting the co-managers in the development of reform projects that are consistent with the HSRG principles and that will contribute significantly toward recovery of salmon and steelhead populations. In this role the HSRG could provide technical assistance to the co-managers early in the process of developing new projects and modifying existing hatchery programs, rather than serving as "independent" reviewers of the end products of that process. HSRG could, for example, be involved with providing critical input in the preparation of Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs), rather than wait and provide review of final product which would likely not be an efficient or effective use of resources.

These efforts would be coordinated with the hatchery review process being conducted by NOAA Fisheries and with the Council's Artificial Production Review and its consideration of adoption the HSRG recommendations into the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

At this meeting staff will provide the Council with an update on the above and the status of current discussions on these issues with potential partners.