

Hatchery Action Implementation Plans-draft 3-3-2011

Hatchery Action Implementation Plans (HAIPs) are watershed-level documents developed by the western Washington Treaty Tribes (Tribes) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). HAIPs are intended to consolidate descriptions of hatchery programs from each watershed into a single document that addresses comanager priorities, legal requirements of the Puget Sound Salmon Management Plan (PSSMP) and Endangered Species Act (ESA), and recommendations of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG). The HAIP describes the adaptation of general principles for hatchery management to the unique genetic and ecological setting of each watershed. The HAIPs also describe how hatchery programs will operate in conjunction with harvest management, habitat restoration, and habitat protection to achieve near- and long-term goals for natural and hatchery production of salmon in each watershed.

Other HAIP content will be developed specifically for each watershed/region. Co-managers will list each salmon and steelhead population and describe its role in meeting regional conservation and fishery goals. These goals could come from regional recovery plans, existing co-manager agreements or be newly developed through the HAIP process itself. Descriptions would take into account goals and parameters agreed upon by comanagers within the watershed.

The purpose of the HAIP is to articulate a shared message regarding the co-managers' artificial production programs and their role in the larger context of salmon management. HAIPs will demonstrate how hatchery actions are integrated with habitat and harvest actions into overall recovery efforts, emphasizing the benefits that hatchery programs provide to harvest and salmon recovery.

Hatchery actions, where their implementation is agreed to by the co-managers and described in the HAIPs, will provide information that can be used to update and/or newly-draft Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) that have to be submitted to NOAA Fisheries for consideration under the ESA section 4(d) and section 7 consultation processes.

The HAIPs allow the Puget Sound Co-managers to fulfill one of the original requirements of the Puget Sound Salmon Management Plan, the development of an Equilibrium Brood Document (EBD). The EBD describes the co-manager hatchery production goals for the watershed and provides a structure and schedule for the exchange of annual hatchery production data as well as an in-season change process.

The HAIPs list funded and unfunded capital and operating/monitoring needs for all state and tribal hatchery programs and facilities within each watershed. Each HAIP will also outline the monitoring and evaluation needs and describe the co-manager's adaptive management approach.

All of these management actions (capital and operational projects, monitoring and evaluation, adaptive management) will be associated with specific budgeted tasks that will be sequenced along a timeline. Each co-manager's list will help to coordinate funding requests and will serve as a supporting document to justify each funding request.