



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

8/12/2023

Agenda item:

Co-Manager Hatchery Policy Update - Briefing

Presenter(s):

Dr. Ken Warheit, Fish Health and Molecular Genetics Lab Manager, and Eric Kinne, Hatchery Division Manager

Background summary:

WDFW and Tribal Co-Managers completed a draft hatchery policy in November 2022. The draft Policy was initially presented to the FWC January 27-28, 2023. Following the presentation FWS authorized WDFW staff to initiate public review of the draft Policy. At the March 16 FWC Fish Committee meeting WDFW staff presented a summary of the public comments. Between the March FWC meeting and the April FWC meeting, WDFW staff made minor changes to the draft Policy and completed a draft environmental review (SEPA Checklist) of the Policy. During the April FWC meeting, staff presented the edited draft Policy and the draft SEPA Checklist to both the FWC Fish Committee and the full FW Commission. On April 17, 2023, the final SEPA checklist was submitted to the WDFW SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, who issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) on May 1, 2023. Public comment period for the DNS ran from May 1 through May 26, 2023. An initial discussion of the DNS and an overview of the public and Tribal Co-Managers' comment on the SEPA determination was heard by the FWC Fish Committee on June 16, 2023.

Staff recommendation:

FWC engage with staff in a discussion of the draft Policy, public comments, and staff's response to public comments. Public will also have an opportunity at this briefing to provide additional comments.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

This presentation to the FWC concerns the Co-Manager Hatchery Policy, the development of which was a directive from the FWC's Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy (C-3624). Ultimately, FWC will need to accept or reject the final draft of Co-Manager Hatchery Policy. Staff have no expected outcome.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Public had three weeks to comment on the draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy. Those comments were presented to the FWC Fish Committee on March 16, 2023. The public had nearly four weeks to respond to the SEPA determination. Those comments were initially presented to the FWC Fish Committee on June 16, 2023, and in more detail at the August 10 and 12 briefings. The public will have an additional opportunity to respond on August 12, 2023.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

See Staff recommendation above.

Draft motion language:

None

Post decision communications plan:

To be determined
