

FW Commission Co-Manager Hatchery Policy Decision October 27, 2023

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Outline of Presentation

- Edits to policy following review of SEPA comments and FWC – Tribal Co-Manager meeting on August 18, 2023
- Where we are in the development of the policy and remaining steps
- Draft motion language



Edit #1 – Added sentence to Policy Purpose

Joint Policy Agreement
for the
Management of Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries
between the
[spell out each of the Tribes]
and the
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

while mitigation, habitat restoration and stock recovery efforts are ongoing. Finally, the Co-Managers also recognize that the recovery and conservation of natural-origin populations are the ultimate goals where habitat can sustain natural-origin populations sufficient to support harvest goals and other ecosystem functions and services without hatchery production.

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Edit #2 – Edited sentence in the introduction to Principle 4

watershed level. The hatchery plans promote conservation through an All-H⁷ approach – a focus on ~~should indicate~~ how ~~the~~ hatchery production is integrated with habitat, hydropower, and harvest, ~~also known as the All-H approach.~~

⁷All-H refers to managing harvest, hatcheries, hydropower, and habitat (i.e., the 4 Hs) in a comprehensive, integrated manner considering the impacts and conditions of each in a holistic management structure.



Edit #3 – Added bullet to Principle 4

Principle 4: The Co-Managers will develop and/or operate in accordance with hatchery program plans

- Hatchery management plans shall be aligned with regional or watershed recovery and rebuilding plans agreed to by the Co-Managers⁸.

FootNote 8:

As examples:

- WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan
- Fish Propagation Facilities Plan Baker River Project
- Snohomish Chinook Recovery Plan: Phases of Recovery and Integrated Adaptive Management Strategy (Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinions (2019, 2022))

- It is recognized that there are hatchery program plans in varying stages of consultation, in specific geographic areas, which are agreed-to by Co-Managers. These hatchery program plans will not be modified without Co-Manager agreement.



Edit #4 – Principle 5: Scientifically sound and defensible

Principle 5: Hatcheries are to be designed and operated in a scientifically-sound and defensible⁹ manner, including adaptive management processes for informing decisions that include monitoring, evaluation, and research programs.

- Co-managers will monitor and evaluate hatchery- and natural-origin fish populations and their

We consider the phrases “scientifically-sound and defensible” and “best available science” (BAS) to be congruent. We have chosen to use here “scientifically sound and defensible” instead of BAS to differentiate this Policy from the state’s definition of BAS in the WAC 365-195-905, which is not applicable to this Policy.

(Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinions (2019, 2022):

<https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/30944>; <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/37557>;

Supplemental Environmental Assessment (2021): <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/32081>; ESA

Biological Opinion and Final Environmental Assessment (2017) for Snohomish Basin salmon hatchery programs).

⁹ We consider the phrases “scientifically-sound and defensible” and “best available science” (BAS) to be congruent. We have chosen to use here “scientifically sound and defensible” instead of BAS to differentiate this Policy from the state’s definition of BAS in the WAC 365-195-905, which is not applicable to this Policy.



Status of draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy

- Two years of edits – the last and final set of edits completed and distributed mid-September ~9/21/23
- Policy purpose and language reflect trade-offs in Tribal and FWC values
- Today: Adopt or Not Adopt policy



Adopt vs Not Adopt

Adopt:

- Co-Manager Hatchery Policy is the directing policy for all hatchery programs in the regions where individual Tribes have also approved policy
- In regions where Tribes have not approved policy or regions with no Tribal Co-Management (e.g., Willapa Bay) C-3624 is the directing hatchery policy

Not Adopt:

- C-3624 is WDFW's statewide directing hatchery policy





Questions and Discussion

Draft Motion Language

I move that the Commission adopt the hatchery policy developed by Co-Managers as presented by staff today.

