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February 10, 2004

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee

**FROM:** Bruce Suzumoto

**SUBJECT:** APRE issue paper discussion

Based on the APRE findings, staff would like to discuss future hatchery reform recommendations and possible next steps for the hatchery reform process. Attached is a draft outline of the APRE issue paper that aims to help guide committee discussion.

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Draft APRE Issue Paper Outline:  
Implementation of Hatchery Reform  
February 10, 2004

- I. Introduction
  - A. APRE background and purpose of issue paper
  - B. Finding: significant hatchery changes needed
    - 1. Hatcheries are limited in what they can accomplish
    - 2. Goals have changed
    - 3. Hatcheries have a future role
    - 4. Hatcheries require reform
- II. Background: summary of trends and conditions for salmonids
  - A. Current hatchery conditions
  - B. Current hatchery purposes
  - C. Current regional and worldwide conditions and trends for salmonids
    - 1. Conservation issues
    - 2. Fishing trends and conditions
  - D. Basin goals and objectives
  - E. Artificial production's role in meeting goals and objectives
  - F. Basin versus out of basin production goals
  - G. Hatchery reform
  - H. Policy issues and alternatives
- III. Proposed scope of recommendations
  - A. **Develop new strategies for hatchery programs that will better align subbasin, basin and out-of-basin goals with the best science and current social and economic conditions.**
    - 1. As the highest priority, emphasize better integration of hatchery programs to the subbasins where they are located. In general, allow subbasin goals and objectives for hatcheries to help shape out-of-subbasin utilization.
    - 2. Situate segregated hatchery programs in areas that minimize risk to native stocks.
    - 3. Use hatchery programs to enhance diversity of species and populations both basinwide and within subbasins.

*Discussion: One of the primary purposes of hatchery production is to provide harvest opportunities. Most hatchery production in the Basin is operated to provide fish for out of basin or mainstem harvest needs. While these are legitimate objectives, insufficient attention has been given to how well these programs integrate with subbasin plans and local needs. A more local focus on hatchery production would better align with ESA mandates, the Council's Program and the subbasin planning process. Building hatchery production from a more local level (based and on habitat availability and local stocks) could help ensure that subbasins are better able to meet their goals. There will be difficulty balancing subbasin goals and out-of-subbasin objectives because of current harvest goals and agreements (i.e. U.S. v Oregon; U.S./Canada Treaty) but if native stocks are better protected or enhanced, everyone could benefit. The question is how to better use hatcheries as a tool meet regional needs and biological goals.*

**B. Develop ongoing, sustainable hatchery review process**

1. Better methods and procedures for guiding hatchery programs towards success.
  - a. Tools and procedures for tracking effects of hatchery programs on harvest and conservation
  - b. Guidelines for the operation of hatcheries consistent with best science in terms of fish health, genetics, ecology, and culture methods.
  - c. Indicators of performance relative to the standards and guidelines should be identified and monitoring protocols developed for each hatchery program

*Discussion: One of the major findings of the APRE review was that insufficient information is being collected on hatchery programs. Without this information it is difficult to evaluate the success or failure of any particular program to meet their stated objectives. Programs should be able to:*

- *Estimate the contribution of their hatchery programs to the harvest and/or conservation goals for which they were funded,*
  - *Ensure that the impacts of their programs on natural-origin salmonids or on the environment within the watersheds or regions in which they operate are understood*
  - *Ensure that their programs complement other management strategies (e.g. other hatcheries and habitat restoration projects) within their watershed or region, and*
  - *Adjust hatchery programs to take into account changes in goals, habitat and stock status.*
- An ongoing hatchery evaluation process must be workable. Appropriate monitoring levels and sufficient funding are issues to be discussed.*

**C. Implement Near-Term Prioritized Hatchery Reforms**

1. Prioritization Criteria
2. Reform Selection Process
3. Integration with new goals and research
4. Funding

*Discussion: Near-term hatchery fixes may be necessary while the region engages the broader hatchery goals and evaluation issues. How should these fixes be prioritized? What will be the selection process for these actions? How will these actions be funded?*

**IV. Approach to implement recommendations**

- A. Consultation with agencies, tribes and stakeholders
- B. Develop strategic plan for hatchery reform (workplan)
- C. Regional discussion on artificial production goals and objectives
- D. Coordination with subbasin planning
- E. Coordination with HGMP process
- F. Incorporation into 2005 F&W Program
- G. Funding/resource strategies
  1. Sources
  2. Near-term/long-term