

# HATCHERY AND GENETIC MANAGEMENT PLAN (HGMP)

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<b>Hatchery Program:</b>	McKernan Fall Chum Fingerling Program
<b>Species or Hatchery Stock:</b>	Chum ( <i>Onchorynchus keta</i> ) Hood Canal
<b>Agency/Operator:</b>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>Watershed and Region:</b>	Hood Canal Puget Sound
<b>Date Submitted:</b>	March 17, 2003
<b>Date Last Updated:</b>	January 10, 2003

## **SECTION 1. GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

### **1.1) Name of hatchery or program.**

McKernan Hatchery Fall Chum Program

### **1.2) Species and population (or stock) under propagation, and ESA status.**

Hood Canal Fall Chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*) - not listed

### **1.3) Responsible organization and individuals**

**Name (and title):** Ron Warren, Region 6 Fish Program Manager  
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#### **Other agencies, Tribes, co-operators, or organizations involved, including contractors, and extent of involvement in the program:**

McKernan Hatchery operates under *U.S. v. Washington*, the Puget Sound Salmon Management Plan and the Hood Canal Salmon Management Plan between WDFW and the Point No Point Treaty Council (PNPTC) which includes the Skokomish, Port Gamble S’Klallam, Jamestown S’Klallam and Lower Elwha S’Klallam tribes. The co-management process requires that both the State of Washington and the relevant Puget Sound tribes agree on the function and purpose of each hatchery program and on production levels. Guidelines for production at Hood Canal facilities are set out in the Hood Canal Salmon and Steelhead Production 1996 MOU and the Future/Current Brood Document.

### **1.4) Funding source, staffing level, and annual hatchery program operational costs.**

Funding for fingerling production at McKernan is provided through the State General Fund. McKernan receives \$142,000 annually from the State General Fund. The hatchery is staffed with 2 full-time employees.

**1.5) Location(s) of hatchery and associated facilities.**

McKernan Hatchery: Located at RM 1.0 on Weaver Creek (16.0006), a tributary of the lower Skokomish River (16.0001) which flows into Hood Canal in southwestern Puget Sound near Union, Washington. Basin name: Hood Canal.

**1.6) Type of program.**

Isolated harvest (the intent of these programs is to be "Isolated" but an unknown number of adults stray onto the spawning grounds of the Skokomish River).

**1.7) Purpose (Goal) of program.**

Augmentation and mitigation

Hatchery fall chum production has been developed to augment harvest opportunities and, in part, to provide partial mitigation for reduced natural production in the Skokomish system, primarily caused by hydroelectric dams on the North Fork Skokomish. The Skokomish Tribe, whose reservation is located near the mouth of the river, has a reserved treaty right to harvest fall chum salmon.

**1.8) Justification for the program.**

This program will be operated to provide fish for harvest while minimizing adverse effects on listed fish. This will be accomplished in the following manner:

1. Release fingerling smolts with expected brief freshwater residence.
2. Delay release timing to April 1st to avoid freshwater and estuarine interactions with Hood Canal summer chum.

**1.9) List of program "Performance Standards".**

See section 1.10.

**1.10) List of program “Performance Indicators”, designated by "benefits" and "risks."**

Performance Standards and Indicators for Puget Sound **Isolated Harvest** fall chum programs.

Performance Standard	Performance Indicator	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
Produce adult fish for harvest	Survival and contribution rates	Monitor catch data
Meet hatchery production goals	Number of juvenile fish released - <b>10,000,000</b>	Future Brood Document (FBD) and hatchery records
Manage for adequate escapement where applicable	Hatchery return rates	Hatchery return records
Minimize interactions with listed fish through proper broodstock management. Maximize hatchery adult capture effectiveness. Use only hatchery fish	Number of broodstock collected - <b>9,165</b>	Stream surveys, rack counts
	Stray Rates	Spawning guidelines
	Sex ratios	Hatchery records
	Age structure	
	Timing of adult collection/spawning - <b>mid October to early December</b>	Spawning guidelines Hatchery records
	Adherence to spawning guidelines - <b>see section 8.3</b>	
Minimize interactions with listed fish through proper rearing and release strategies	Juveniles released as smolts	FBD and hatchery records
	Out-migration timing of listed fish / hatchery fish - <b>Feb-March(summer chum) - mid May-early June (chinook) /April</b>	FBD and historic natural outmigration times FBD and hatchery records
	Size and time of release - <b>450- 550 fpp/April release</b>	

Maintain stock integrity and genetic diversity	Effective population size	Spawning guidelines
	Hatchery-Origin Recruit spawners	Spawning ground surveys
<p>Maximize in-hatchery survival of broodstock and their progeny; and</p> <p>Limit the impact of pathogens associated with hatchery stocks, on listed fish</p>	Fish pathologists will monitor the health of hatchery stocks on a monthly basis and recommend preventative actions / strategies to maintain fish health	Co-Managers Disease Policy
	Fish pathologists will diagnose fish health problems and minimize their impact	Fish Health Monitoring Records
	Vaccines will be administered when appropriate to protect fish health	
	A fish health database will be maintained to identify trends in fish health and disease and implement fish health management plans based on findings	
	Fish health staff will present workshops on fish health issues to provide continuing education to hatchery staff.	
Ensure hatchery operations comply with state and federal water quality standards through proper environmental monitoring	NPDES compliance	Monthly NPDES records

**1.11) Expected size of program.**

**1.11.1) Proposed annual broodstock collection level (maximum number of adult fish).**

The egg take goal for George Adams, McKernan and Hoodsport Hatchery are managed as a composite broodstock with the eggs being interchangeable between the three facilities, pending viral certification.

The McKernan program egg take goal is 10 million fall chum eggs. Assuming a fecundity of 2,400 eggs per female, a 60% male / 40 % female sex ratio and a prespawning mortality of < or = 5%, the number of adults required to meet the egg take goal would be about 9,165.

**1.11.2) Proposed annual fish release levels (maximum number) by life stage and location.**

Life Stage	Release Location	Annual Release Level
Eyed Eggs		
Unfed Fry		
Fry	Weaver Creek (16.0005)	10,000,000
Fingerling		
Yearling		

**1.12) Current program performance, including estimated smolt-to-adult survival rates, adult production levels, and escapement levels. Indicate the source of these data.**

The McKernan fall chum hatchery escapement levels between 1995 and 2001 were 17,716, 32,828, 12,519, 38,812, 9,772, 2,158 and 45,424, respectively. No survival rates have been calculated (no CWT's).

**1.13) Date program started (years in operation), or is expected to start.**

1978.

**1.14) Expected duration of program.**

Ongoing.

**1.15) Watersheds targeted by program.**

Skokomish River  
-Weaver Creek (16.0005)

**1.16) Indicate alternative actions considered for attaining program goals, and reasons why those actions are not being proposed.**

None

## **SECTION 2. PROGRAM EFFECTS ON ESA-LISTED SALMONID POPULATIONS.**

### **2.1) List all ESA permits or authorizations in hand for the hatchery program.**

None

### **2.2) Provide descriptions, status, and projected take actions and levels for ESA-listed natural populations in the target area.**

#### **2.2.1) Description of ESA-listed salmonid population(s) affected by the program.**

**- Identify the ESA-listed population(s) that will be directly affected by the program.**

None

**- Identify the ESA-listed population(s) that may be incidentally affected by the program.**

#### **Puget Sound ESU fall chinook ( Hood Canal fall chinook stock ( WDF 1993):**

Watersheds flowing into Hood Canal from the west, draining out of the Olympic Mountains, are high gradient rivers with limited access to anadromous fish due to natural barriers; major watersheds include the Hamma Hamma, Duckabush and Dosewallips rivers. Watersheds flowing into Hood Canal from the east, off the Kitsap Peninsula, are lower gradient, smaller systems; these include the Union, Dewatto, and Tahuya rivers. The Skokomish River, including the South and North forks, is the largest watershed and enters Hood Canal from the southwest. Natural salmon production occurs throughout the Hood Canal basin, but chinook salmon occur in only these few streams. In Hood Canal, most natural chinook spawning occurs in the Skokomish River (including the South and North forks), with smaller populations in the Dosewallips, Duckabush, and Hamma Hamma rivers. Small numbers of chinook spawners have been periodically observed in the Union, Dewatto and Tahuya rivers, but it is unknown whether these streams historically supported naturally sustainable chinook populations.

We have little information on the adult age structure, sex ratio, size range or smolt distribution and emigration timing of wild chinook in Hood Canal streams. We do not know to what extent that McKernan hatchery-origin chum interact with wild Hood Canal chinook. Hood Canal wild chinook are thought to emigrate mainly as sub-yearlings, probably from April through early June. The summer flows in the South Fork Skokomish River may be too low to support chinook through the summer, though some areas in the Lower North Fork do have sufficient water (C. Baranski, WDFW, personnel communication, March 2000). Hood Canal fall chinook spawn from mid-September through October with a peak in mid-October (WDFW and WWTIT 1994). Chinook spawning occurs in the mainstem Skokomish River, the lower South Fork Skokomish and

tributaries such as Vance Creek, lower North Fork Skokomish and tributaries, and the lower reaches (below anadromous barriers) of Lilliwaup Creek, Hamma Hamma, John Creek, the Duckabush, Dosewallips, Big and Little Quilcene Rivers, and the lower Union, Tahuya and Dewatto Rivers. Chinook spawning in many of these streams may be largely the result of hatchery releases.

SASSI classified Hood Canal summer/fall chinook as a single stock of mixed origin (both native and non-native) with composite production (sustained by wild and artificial production) (Washington Dept of Fisheries et al. 1992). The combination of recent low abundances (in all tributaries except the Skokomish River) and widespread use of hatchery stocks (primarily originating from sources outside Hood Canal) led to the conclusion in SASSI that there were no remaining genetically unique, indigenous populations of chinook in Hood Canal. However, a sampling effort is currently under way (led by WDFW in cooperation with NMFS and Treaty Tribes) to collect genetic information from chinook juveniles and adults in the tributaries of Hood Canal. This investigation is intended to provide further information on the genetic source and status of existing chinook populations.

Genetic characterization of the Skokomish chinook stocks has, to date, been limited to comparison of adults and juveniles collected from the Skokomish River with adults from other Hood Canal and Puget Sound populations. Genetic collections were made during 1998 and 1999 in the Skokomish River and there appeared to be no significant genetic differentiation between natural spawners and the local hatchery populations. It appears that Hood Canal area populations may have formed a group differentiated from south Puget Sound populations, possibly indicating that some level of adaptation may be occurring following the cessation of transfers from south Puget Sound hatcheries (Anne Marshall, WDFW memo dated May 31, 2000). Current adult returns are a composite of natural- and hatchery-origin fish. During 1998 and 1999, known hatchery-origin fish comprised from 13% to 41% of the samples collected on the natural spawning grounds. Genetic analysis of samples collected from Lake Cushman was inconclusive as to stock origin, and exhibits low genetic variability (Marshall, 1995a).

Genetic characterization of the mid-Hood Canal stocks has, to date, been limited to comparison of adults returning to the Hamma Hamma River in 1999 with other Hood Canal and Puget Sound populations. These studies, although not conclusive, suggest that Hamma Hamma returns are not genetically distinct from the Skokomish River returns, or recent McKernan and Hoodsport hatchery broodstock (A. Marshall, WDFW unpublished data). The reasons for this similarity are unclear, but straying of chinook that originate from streams further south in Hood Canal, and hatchery stocking, could be contributing causes. Analysis of GSI collections made during 2000 is pending.

Because there is no specific information on wild smolt temporal and spatial distribution in Hood Canal streams, the extent to which they might interact with hatchery steelhead released locally is unknown.

## **Hood Canal Summer Chum:**

In the Summer Chum Salmon Conservation Initiative (SCSCI) (WDFW and PNPTT 2000), the most recent information on historical and current summer chum salmon distribution and on the genetic profiles of the populations has been reviewed. This analysis has resulted in an updated list of 16 summer chum stocks, which form the basic population units used throughout the recovery plan. Six current summer chum stocks have been identified in Hood Canal: Quilcene, Dosewallips, Duckabush, Hamma Hamma, Lilliwaup, and Union. Six additional stocks are identified as recent extinctions: Skokomish, Finch, Tahuya, Dewatto, Anderson, and Big Beef. In the Strait of Juan de Fuca, three currently existing stocks have been identified: Snow/Salmon, Jimmycomelately and Dungeness. Chimacum Creek is noted as a recent stock extinction.

In Hood Canal streams, the continuous and cumulative reduction in habitat productivity and capacity has influenced summer chum salmon by lowering survival rates and population resiliency, and reducing potential population size. Net fisheries in Hood Canal, when combined with harvests in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, began to catch a high percentage of returning summer chum salmon in 1980, contributing to low escapements through the 1980s. At the same time, oceanic climate changes influenced regional weather patterns, resulting in unfavorable stream flows during the winter egg incubation season. Fall spawning flows dropped substantially in 1986 (also likely climate related), contributing to the poor status of these stocks. The current low production of Hood Canal summer chum salmon appears to be the result of the combined effects of lower survivals caused by habitat degradation, climate change and increases in harvest. The Summer Chum Conservation Initiative (SCSCI) requires that no hatchery fish releases are to occur prior to April 1 as a protection measure during out-migration of listed Hood Canal summer chum.

The pattern of decline of summer chum salmon in Strait of Juan de Fuca streams is similar to the Hood Canal experience, however, the drop in escapements occurred ten years later, in 1989. The combined effects of reductions in habitat quality, stream flows, and fishery harvests have resulted in low summer chum salmon production in the Strait of Juan de Fuca region.

There have been a number of factors that are positive for summer chum salmon recovery. One is the successful reduction in harvests within Hood Canal fishing areas, averaging less than 2% of the runs during the 1993-1997 seasons. Successful supplementation projects are increasing the numbers of returning summer chum adults to two streams, and are providing eggs for reintroducing summer chum to two other streams. There have also been meaningful changes in the production of hatchery fish in the region, designed to reduce negative interactions with summer chum juveniles. The combined effects of these changes have contributed to some higher summer chum escapements in recent years. However, additional measures, particularly with respect to habitat protection and restoration, are required for successful recovery of summer chum salmon.

## **Puget Sound Bull Trout (South Fork Skokomish stock (WDFW 1998)):**

There is little or no information on adult age class structure, sex ratio, juvenile life history strategy or smolt emigration timing. Hood Canal Ranger District (Olympic National Forest) staff recently conducted a radio-tagging study of (presumed) bull trout in the South Fork Skokomish River (Ogg and Taiber 1999). The objectives of the study were to examine seasonal migration patterns and to identify spawning grounds and spawning times. In addition, Forest Service staff have been conducting trapping, snorkeling and electrofishing surveys for bull trout in the South Fork. They believe that fluvial and resident life history forms are present. There is no evidence from their work of an anadromous life history form, though anadromous fish may be present. Sexually mature fluvial fish range from 38 to 59 cm. During the course of the telemetry study, spawning migration activity in fluvial fish began in late October when the water temperature dropped below 7°C and river flow increased. Spawning time appears to be from late October through late November. Spawning grounds have tentatively been identified in the mainstem South Fork from RM 18 through RM 23.5 and in Church, LeBar and Brown Creeks. Juvenile rearing areas include, but should not be considered restricted to, RM 19 through RM 23.5.

### **2.2.2) Status of ESA-listed salmonid population(s) affected by the program.**

#### **- Describe the status of the listed natural population(s) relative to “critical” and “viable” population thresholds**

In the draft Viable Salmon Population and the Recovery of Evolutionary Significant Units (NMFS 1999), the National Marine Fisheries Service provides a review of the various parameters that relate to populations and ESU viability guidelines. Seven major items were identified.

- 1) ESUs should contain multiple populations,
- 2) Some populations in an ESU should be geographically widespread,
- 3) Some populations should be geographically close to each other,
- 4) Populations should not all share common catastrophic risks,
- 5) Populations that display diverse life-histories and phenotypes should be maintained (create circumstances that will protect the integrity of individual populations),
- 6) Some populations should exceed VSP guidelines, and
- 7) Evaluations of ESU status should take into account uncertainty about ESU-level processes.

The basic elements of the above statement include three items: diversity, abundance and distribution. Diversity refers not only to genetic variations that characterize populations but also those traits that are influenced by environmental and demographic factors. This means: 1) maintaining the genetic integrity of each of the core populations within the Puget Sound ESU, 2) protecting habitat to the extent that ecological variations and processes attributed to fish production are maintained, and 3) controlling human-caused

factors that could potentially alter traits such as run timing, age structure, size, fecundity, morphology and behavior of individuals and populations.

This section refers specifically to annual abundance levels for each of the natural management units, without regard to genetic diversity and distribution. The viable threshold, as defined by NMFS, is the level of abundance and function at which the population has a negligible risk of extinction over both the short (e.g., 3 generations) and long (100 years) term. The critical threshold is the level of abundance and function at which the population is at high risk of extinction over a short time period.

The present threshold estimates are subject to change.

Chinook: The co-managers have identified minimum abundance levels and recovery exploitation rates in the Harvest Management Component of the Puget Sound Comprehensive Chinook Management Plan . These recovery exploitation rates were established based on current estimated survival and productivity rates with adjustments to account for data uncertainty and management imprecision. The basic strategy is to hold harvest impacts neutral and to turn short-term increases in productivity into additional fish on the spawning grounds. However, it should be stated that data quality in many cases is limited that these exploitation rates should be periodically reviewed to assure that they are representative of critical thresholds.

Within Hood Canal, there are two chinook management units (MUs): Skokomish River and Mid-Hood Canal. The immediate and short-term objective for Skokomish River MU is to manage chinook as a composite population (including naturally and artificially produced chinook). The composite population will be managed, in part, to achieve a suitable level of natural escapement; and to continue hatchery mitigation for the effects of habitat loss; and to provide to the Skokomish Tribe partial mitigation for its lost treaty fishing opportunity. Habitat recovery and protection measures will be sought to improve natural production. The Mid-Hood Canal MU is comprised of chinook populations of the Dosewallips, Duckabush, and Hamma Hamma watersheds. The management objective is to maintain and restore sustainable, locally adapted, natural-origin chinook. Management efforts will focus on increasing natural population numbers and meeting specified minimum escapement rates or numbers.

For the Skokomish chinook MU, during the recovery period, pre-terminal southern U.S. are managed to achieve a total rate of exploitation of 15% or less as estimated by the FRAM model. This can be considered the critical exploitation rate threshold for the MU. A low abundance threshold escapement of 1300 chinook (comprised of 800 natural spawners and 500 adults returning to the hatchery rack) and can be considered the critical abundance threshold. The natural escapement component threshold is set at approximately 50% of the current MSY estimate and represents a level necessary to ensure in-system diversity and spatial distribution. During the 1996-2000 period, the composite low threshold was exceeded in all years for the Skokomish MU and in four of the five years for natural escapement. An escapement goal of 3,150 chinook (comprised of 1650 in-stream spawners and 1500 spawners required for the maintenance of hatchery

production) is set and is intended to maintain full hatchery mitigation and meet current estimates of MSY escapement to natural production areas under current habitat conditions; this can be considered the viable threshold. During the 1996-2000 period, composite escapement exceeded the 3150 goal in 4 of 5 years, natural escapement has exceeded 1650 chinook in 2 of 5 years, and hatchery escapement has exceeded 1500 chinook in all 5 years.

For the Mid-Hood Canal chinook MU, during the recovery period, pre-terminal southern U.S. are managed to achieve a total rate of exploitation of 15% or less as estimated by the FRAM model. This is considered the critical exploitation rate threshold for the MU. A low abundance threshold escapement of 400 chinook is considered the critical abundance threshold which is approximately 50% of the current MSY estimate and represents a level necessary to ensure in-system diversity and spatial distribution. During the 1996-2000 period, the low threshold was exceeded in 2 of 5 years for the Mid-Hood Canal MU. An escapement goal of 750 chinook is set and represents current estimates of MSY escapement to natural production areas; this can be considered the viable threshold. During the 1996-2000 period, escapement exceeded the 750 goal in 1 of 5 years.

Summer chum: In the SCSCI, a separate procedure has been used to estimate extinction risk based on the numbers of spawners representing each summer chum stock. Summer chum critical thresholds focus on minimum number of spawners required to have a viable population, and estimates the risk of extinction for populations below the viable threshold. The assessments identified two stocks that are currently rated as having a high risk of extinction: Lilliwaup and Jimmycomelately. A moderate rate of extinction rating is assigned to the Hamma Hamma and Union stocks. Dungeness is rated of special concern because of the lack of stock assessment information. The remaining summer chum have a low risk of extinction.

Bull trout: The status of Puget Sound bull trout in Hood Canal is unknown, but believed to be viable.

**- Provide the most recent 12 year (e.g. 1988-present) progeny-to-parent ratios, survival data by life-stage, or other measures of productivity for the listed population. Indicate the source of these data.**

No estimates of productivity are available for Puget Sound chinook or for Puget Sound bull trout in the Hood Canal region.

No good estimates of Hood Canal summer chum productivity are available because age data are not available. Recruit-per-spawner estimates done by WDFW, the NWIFC and PNPTC range from 1.5 to 1.8, but none of these are reliable at present (J. Ames, WDFW, personnel communication, February 2000). The co-managers are committed to collecting this information and have done so during 1999 and 2000, but may need additional funding to assemble an adequate data base.

**- Provide the most recent 12 year (e.g. 1988-1999) annual spawning abundance estimates, or any other abundance information. Indicate the source of these data.**

Table X. 1988-2000 spawner abundance data for Hood Canal fall chinook, Hood Canal summer chum and Lake Cushman bull trout/Dolly Varden. Chinook data are from the 1999 WDFW chinook run reconstruction and WDFW files. Summer chum data are from SCSCI run reconstruction, dated May 2001. Bull trout data are from WDFW (1998) through 1996 and from D.Collins (WDFW, personnel communication) thereafter.

Year	Fall Chinook	Summer Chum	Bull Trout/Dolly Varden
1988	2,853	2,967	152
1989	1,425	598	174
1990	724	429	299
1991	1,858	747	299
1992	940	1,945	285
1993	1,172	7,072	412
1994	1,072	2,044	281
1995	1,999	8,971	250
1996	1,028	19,707	292
1997	492	8,419	No data collected
1998	1,834	3,404	119 <sup>1</sup>
1999	3,020	3,882	90 <sup>1</sup>
2000	1,690	7,987	---
2001	No data at this time	11,501 (prelim)	---

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<sup>1</sup> Counts were incomplete due to high water (D.Collins, personal communication, February, 2000)

**- Provide the most recent 12 year (e.g. 1988-1999) estimates of annual proportions of direct hatchery-origin and listed natural-origin fish on natural spawning grounds, if known.**

Analysis of the 1988, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94 and 95 chinook broods show a low stray rate (0.08 to 0.56% ) within the same GDU and none outside the GDU. The stray rate risk rating is "Low" per the WDFW Hatchery Risk Assessment Worksheet, Version 2, 11/2/00.

In recent years hatchery-origin chinook, identified by adipose-fin clips and scale patterns, have been recovered from spawning grounds in the mainstem Skokomish River during sampling for genetic analysis. In 1998, 61 chinook spawners were sampled, ten of which were coded-wire tagged. They originated from McKernan Hatchery (n=3), Hoodspport Hatchery (n=2), Long Live the Kings releases from Rick's Pond (n=4) and the now - defunct Sund Rock net pens (n=1). Seven of these fish had been released as yearlings and three as fingerlings. Since McKernan releases only fingerlings, the yearlings would probably have come from the Long Live the Kings project, Hoodspport Hatchery or net pens in Hood Canal. Scale analysis of the untagged adults in the genetics sample showed that an additional 16 fish had hatchery yearling scale patterns. Thus, hatchery-origin fish comprised at least 43% of the sample. More fish in the sample may have been of hatchery origin, but chinook released as fingerlings would have scale patterns indistinguishable from those of wild chinook, which outmigrate mainly as fingerlings.

**2.2.3) Describe hatchery activities, including associated monitoring and evaluation and research programs, that may lead to the take of listed fish in the target area, and provide estimated annual levels of take.**

**- Describe hatchery activities that may lead to the take of listed salmonid populations in the target area, including how, where, and when the takes may occur, the risk potential for their occurrence, and the likely effects of the take.**

Broodstock collection for McKernan fall chum may result in take of listed Puget Sound fall chinook. through capture at the hatchery trap. There are no known summer chum returning to the Skokomish River.

It is unknown about saltwater interactions between hatchery fall chum and listed wild chinook and summer chum, but we expect that wild summer chum would have cleared lower Hood Canal before the fall chum are released (after April 1).

**- Provide information regarding past takes associated with the hatchery program, (if known) including numbers taken, and observed injury or mortality levels for listed fish.**

No known past takes.

**- Provide projected annual take levels for listed fish by life stage (juvenile and adult) quantified (to the extent feasible) by the type of take resulting from the hatchery program (e.g. capture, handling, tagging, injury, or lethal take).**

Annual take of listed wild Puget Sound Summer chum cannot be quantified since they cannot be readily distinguished from McKernan Hatchery Chum. However, summer chums generally arrive on the spawning grounds prior to fall chum. This, plus the belief that summer chums are extirpated from the Skokomish River reduces the risk of a "take" in the Skokomish River from the chum hatchery program.

**- Indicate contingency plans for addressing situations where take levels within a given year have exceeded, or are projected to exceed, take levels described in this plan for the program.**

## **SECTION 3. RELATIONSHIP OF PROGRAM TO OTHER MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

**3.1) Describe alignment of the hatchery program with any ESU-wide hatchery plan (e.g. *Hood Canal Summer Chum Conservation Initiative*) or other regionally accepted policies (e.g. the *NPPC Annual Production Review Report and Recommendations - NPPC document 99-15*). Explain any proposed deviations from the plan or policies.**

The McKernan fall chum program is conducted in a manner consistent with the Summer Chum Salmon Conservation Initiative or SCSCI (WDFW and PNPTT 2000). Specifically, Chum are not released until after April 1 in order to reduce potential interactions with listed Hood Canal summer chum. It is unknown whether there is a summer chum population in the Skokomish River. However, Hood Canal summer chum are expected to migrate to salt water in February and March and swim seaward quickly (Tynan 1992). They are expected to clear the marine area well before the release of McKernan fall chum in April.

**3.2) List all existing cooperative agreements, memoranda of understanding, memoranda of agreement, or other management plans or court orders under which program operates.**

This HGMP is consistent with relevant standing orders and agreements. The Puget Sound Salmon Management Plan (PSSMP, 1985) and the Hood Canal Salmon Management Plan (HCSMP, 1986) are federal court orders that currently control both the harvest management rules and production schedules for salmon in Hood Canal under the *U.S. v. Washington* management framework. The parties to the SCSCI recognize that it may be necessary to modify these plans in order to implement the recommendations that will result from the SCSCI. However, the provisions of the PSSMP and HCSMP will remain in effect until modified through court order by mutual agreement.

**3.3) Relationship to harvest objectives.**

Tribal and non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries directed at chum and other species produced through WDFW hatchery releases will be managed to minimize incidental effects to listed chinook salmon and summer chum salmon. Time and area, gear-type restrictions, and chinook and summer chum release requirements will be applied to reduce takes of listed salmon in the Hood Canal mainstem, extreme terminal marine area, and river areas where these fisheries directed at other hatchery species occur. Compliance with the fisheries management strategy defined in the SCSCI will lead to fisheries on WDFW hatchery-origin stocks that are not likely to adversely affect listed chinook or listed summer chum.

Each year, state, federal and tribal fishery managers plan the Northwest's recreational and commercial salmon fisheries. This pre-season planning process is generally known as the North of Falcon process, which involves a series of public meetings between federal, state, tribal and industry representatives and other concerned citizens. The North of

Falcon planning process coincides with meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, which sets the ocean salmon seasons at these meetings.

The PFMC/North of Falcon process is conducted for management of salmon-directed marine and freshwater fisheries. Each year, preseason forecasts are made of the abundance of individual fish stocks. These forecasts can be based on a number of factors, such as juvenile outmigration abundance, spawning escapement, hatchery returns, terminal area fishery samples, and historic returns. Taken together, these numbers provide an indication of the strength of the upcoming season's populations. The forecast is added to a base of information on the historic run-size strength and fishery impacts for the fish populations. The primary tool used to develop this base of information for chinook salmon is CWTs.

This information is then input into computer models, which estimates potential catches for each stock under various fishing regulation options. Results from these computer simulations are then compared to conservation goals, obligations under U.S.-Canada treaties, treaty tribe and non-treaty allocations, and protection requirements for some wild fish populations under the ESA. Conservation goals are set jointly by state and tribal co-managers, and are based on the best available scientific information on the number of fish a given stream is capable of supporting and the number of recruits that can be produced by each pair of spawning adults. Conservation goals are designed to ensure that enough fish survive harvest in order to spawn and perpetuate the long-term health and existence of the run.

Fishing season options are developed each year in the late winter and early spring, and are set by the end of April. Because state fishing activities affect species that migrate over thousands of miles, WDFW participates in three separate harvest management panels:

- The Pacific Salmon Commission, which consists of representatives Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Canada, the treaty tribes of Washington and the Columbia River, and the federal government. Panels and technical committees within the commission address specific ocean fisheries.
- The Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC), which includes the principal fisheries officials from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, the regional director of NMFS, and eight private citizens appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. The Council jointly manages coastal fisheries, including salmon and groundfish, from three to 200 miles off shore. The season-setting process occurs in a series of public meetings.
- The North of Falcon public planning forum, in which state, tribal, and federal fish managers meet with commercial and recreational fishing industry representatives and other concerned citizens, in tandem with PFMC deliberations on ocean seasons, to set salmon fisheries for Puget Sound and waters within three miles of the Washington and northern Oregon coasts. The season setting process occurs following a series of public meetings each spring.

Except where specifically authorized, according to the management framework developed within the annual PFMC/North of Falcon agreements, salmon fisheries are closed. The

PFMC/North of Falcon process includes the analysis of impacts to salmon stocks of concern, including those to ESA-listed salmon ESUs.

For example, during 2000 as an outcome of the North of Falcon process, the state/tribal Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan (enclosed in letter from Billy Frank, Jr., NWIFC and Jeff Koenings, WDFW to Will Stelle, NMFS, dated February 15, 2000) contained proposals for the 2000/2001 fishing season.

For the 2001/2002 season, the co-manager's have prepared a Harvest Management Plan for Puget Sound Chinook Salmon.. The Plan states specific objectives for harvest of the 15 Puget Sound management units, the technical bases for these objectives, and procedures for their implementation. The Plan assures that the survival and recovery of the Puget Sound ESU will not be impeded by fisheries-related mortality. The Plan was submitted with the expectation that NMFS will reach a finding, based on the conditions stated in the 4(d) rule, that fisheries-related take in Washington waters is exempt from prohibition under Section 9 of the ESA. NMFS reviewed and approved the Plan.

Forecasts and management recommendations for Hood Canal hatchery and wild chum are prepared and reported annually by State and Tribal co-managers (for example, see PNPTC and WDFW 2000).

**3.3.1) Describe fisheries benefitting from the program, and indicate harvest levels and rates for program-origin fish for the last twelve years (1988-99), if available.**

Canadian commercial and sport fisheries.

Washington Coastal commercial (tribal and non-tribal) and sport fisheries.

Strait of Juan de Fuca and Hood Canal treaty net fisheries.

Strait of Juan de Fuca and Hood Canal all citizens net fisheries.

Hood Canal sport fisheries

**3.4) Relationship to habitat protection and recovery strategies.**

Hood Canal chinook Limiting factors analyses have not been completed for Hood Canal natural chinook stocks and factors for decline and recovery are not available. However, since listed chinook and listed summer chum utilize similar habitats, habitat protection and recovery strategies designed to recover summer chum (see below) will also aid in the recovery of listed Hood Canal chinook. The principle chinook streams in Hood Canal, the Skokomish, Hamma Hamma, Duckabush, Dosewallips and Big Quilcene rivers are on the westside of Hood Canal. They provide spawning and rearing habitat only in the lower river sections with relatively low gradients. Gradients rapidly become steep with impassable waterfalls, so most of these rivers are not accessible to chinook. All of these rivers, especially the Skokomish and Big Quilcene have suffered damage from human

activities (dams, roads, logging, diking, agriculture and development) which have exacerbated natural summer low flows, winter flooding and streambed scouring, and sediment deposition due to unstable soils and slopes. Large woody debris is lacking in most areas used by chinook as a result of forest practices. In the Skokomish, the Cushman hydropower project on the North Fork has reduced stream flow in the Skokomish by about 40% and has altered the normal pattern of sediment delivery to the estuary with the result that eelgrass has been lost (WDFW and WWTIT 1994). Gravel aggradation and removal have been problems in the lower Big Quilcene.

Summer chum Summer chum supplementation, habitat restoration and management measures are integrated as presented in the Summer Chum Salmon Conservation Initiative (WDFW and PNPTT 2000). The SCSCI provides a standardized approach to determine freshwater and estuarine limiting factors in each summer chum watershed. Habitat factors for decline and recovery for each watershed are described. In addition, at the summer chum ESU scale, protection and restoration strategies for each limiting factor for decline are provided. The goal of the habitat protections and restoration strategy is to maintain and recover the full array of watershed and estuarine-nearshore processes critical to the survival of summer chum across all life stages. Hood Canal summer chum in westside Hood Canal streams (Lilliwaup Cr., Hamma Hamma, Duckabush, Dosewallips, Big Quilcene and Little Quilcene) are affected by much the same habitat conditions as Hood Canal chinook, especially by habitat perturbations such as diking, streambed instability/gravel aggradation in the lower stream reaches. On the eastside, Hood Canal summer chum streams such as the Union River and Big Beef Creek are low elevation, low gradient streams which are being heavily impacted by rapid development on the Kitsap Peninsula. Logging and associated road construction have historically created conditions which increased sediment delivery to streams and reduced the supply of large woody debris to streams.

Bull trout Bull trout in the Hood Canal region are found in the South Fork Skokomish, Lake Cushman and the upper North Fork Skokomish above Staircase Falls. The condition of the South Fork is poor, as mentioned above. Lake Cushman is now a reservoir, and the water level in the one-half mile of the North Fork Skokomish just above the reservoir fluctuates too much to provide stable spawning habitat. Further, the upper and lower Cushman dams have eliminated the anadromous life history form from the North Fork. However, most of the North Fork above Lake Cushman is in the Olympic National Park, and the Habitat is essentially pristine.

Other habitat protection efforts include the Northwest Forest Plan, adopted by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the Northwest in 1994. The plan requires increased stream buffers to protect stream habitat for salmonids and limits road construction and some forms of logging on steep/unstable slopes. Most of the Olympic National Forest is in Late Successional Reserves which limits logging to thinning in stands under 80 years old and severely limits or prohibits logging in older stands. The Forest Service is updating road inventories and embarking on a long-term program to improve or close some of the roads which pose the greatest threats to slope stability and streams. Within Washington State, the Forests and Fish Report, prepared by the USFWS,

NFMS, EPA, Office of the Governor of the State of Washington, WA DNR, WDFW, WA DOE, the Colville Tribes, Washington counties, and timber industry groups, was accepted by Washington Legislature in 1999. The emergency forest practices rules which were developed from the Report will result in some improvements in state and private forest land management including increased stream buffers and some reduction in logging in riparian areas and unstable up-slope areas. Both the federal and state and private forest plans will result in habitat improvements, but are far from ideal for fish. The resulting improvements in fish habitat, such as increased large woody debris in streams, may not be realized for decades given the very poor current conditions of many fish-bearing streams and their riparian areas.

**3.5) Ecological interactions.**

Summer Chum The SCSCI provides an assessment of risks to summer chum juveniles and adults posed by the production of McKernan Hatchery chum, risk averse measures to implement, and monitoring and evaluation measures to be applied to minimize any risks. Hatchery practices will follow the recommended actions of the SCSCI.

Competition and Predation: The risks posed by hatchery origin chum to wild chinook based on data in SIWG (1984) is summarized below:

Table. Risks posed by hatchery-origin **chum** to wild chinook. Data from SIWG (1984).

Type of Risk	Level of Risk
Freshwater predation	Low
Freshwater competition	Low
Early marine predation	Low
Early marine competition	Unknown

McKernan fall chum are released as fed fry and are expected to migrate quickly to Puget Sound and minimize the potential ecological interactions and any adverse affects to listed chinook. These smolts are released at a size of about 450-770 fish/pound in April when wild Skokomish chinook smolts are expected to be about 60 to 80 mm long (D. Seiler, WDFW, personal communications, February, 2000). The USFWS (1994) has suggested that juvenile salmonids can consume fish which are one-third or less their own body length. Given this rule of thumb and approximate sizes of hatchery and wild fish at the time McKernan fall chum are released, there is little or no potential for predation by hatchery chum fry.

Disease Transmission: It is possible that hatchery fish which have been infected by transmissible pathogens or effluent from hatcheries with sick fish could infect wild fish. Hatchery effluent is not tested for pathogens, so we do not know if McKernan is releasing pathogens into the environment. However, disease transmission from hatchery to wild fish does not appear to occur routinely, possibly because pathogen spread does not occur as readily in less crowded wild fish as in hatchery fish (Tynan 1999).

Bull Trout We have no information on interactions between McKernan chum and wild bull trout in the Skokomish (the only watershed in the Hood Canal currently known to have native char). The risk of competition between hatchery chum fry and bull trout is unknown. Presumably, competition can occur where wild and hatchery fish overlap, and space or food are limiting, but juvenile distribution of bull trout in the South Fork Skokomish is not known in detail. South Fork Skokomish bull trout are found overwintering as far down as the confluence with the North Fork (L. Ogg, USFWS, Hood Canal Ranger District, personal communication, February, 2000), but whether they overlap with McKernan chum when these fish are released in April is unknown. Predation risks to bull trout from hatchery chum are likely to be low, since the smallest native char juveniles are likely to be found in the uppermost portions of the Skokomish watershed. By the time South Fork fluvial or possibly anadromous char reach lower river reaches where they are more likely to overlap with hatchery juveniles, they may be too large to be preyed upon. Spawning grounds of South Fork bull trout have not been identified in detail, but are unlikely to overlap with those of chum, so competitive interactions on spawning grounds are unlikely to occur.

Bull trout from the North Fork Skokomish (Lake Cushman and Upper North Fork stocks) are unlikely to pass through the hydropower projects to interact with McKernan chum.

## **SECTION 4. WATER SOURCE**

### **4.1) Provide a quantitative and narrative description of the water source (spring, well, surface), water quality profile, and natural limitations to production attributable to the water source.**

McKernan Hatchery: Water for the McKernan Hatchery is supplied from Weaver Creek and two wells. Well water is currently used for incubation and also for rearing any fish which require pathogen-free water. This generally means fish which are transferred to McKernan for short-term rearing, then transferred out of the Fish Health Management Zone. McKernan Hatchery fall chum are reared on Weaver Creek water which should minimize straying into other watersheds.

The water right for Weaver Creek is 12 cubic feet/second (cfs). Flow in Weaver Creek has diminished in recent years because of drought conditions and development in the watershed.

The water right for McKernan wells is 6.4 cfs. The wells are used only for incubation or in instances when pathogen-free water is required. Otherwise, they are not used in order to allow the aquifer to recharge.

McKernan has an NPDES permit. There is no pollution abatement pond. Vacuumed pond wastes are applied to the wetland next to the hatchery. Hatchery effluent has not violated the conditions of the NPDES permit.

### **4.2) Indicate risk aversion measures that will be applied to minimize the likelihood for the take of listed natural fish as a result of hatchery water withdrawal, screening, or effluent discharge.**

Intake screens conform to minimize the risk that wild juvenile salmonids could enter the fresh water intake. There are no wild chum or chinook above the Weaver Creek intake. There is no formal pollution abatement pond at McKernan. Hatchery effluent is discharged into an adjacent wetland at McKernan and does not violate the conditions of the NPDES permit. The Hatchery Division has proposed installation of a clarifier to treat effluent before routing it to the wetland, if funding becomes available.

## **SECTION 5. FACILITIES**

### **5.1) Broodstock collection facilities (or methods).**

McKernan Hatchery: After volitionally moving up a fish ladder, over a finger weir, adult broodstock collection occurs in a 55' X 184' X 4' rearing/holding pond located in Weaver Creek. The trap begins operation on August 1 for chinook and remains open through the end of the fall chum run in early December.

### **5.2) Fish transportation equipment (description of pen, tank truck, or container used).**

McKernan Hatchery: It is not typically necessary to transport adult broodstock.

### **5.3) Broodstock holding and spawning facilities.**

McKernan Hatchery: Adult broodstock are held in the rearing/holding pond until they are spawned. Spawning facilities are located adjacent to the holding pond.

### **5.4) Incubation facilities.**

McKernan Hatchery: All McKernan fall chum eggs are incubated to eyed-egg stage in freestyle incubators at McKernan Hatchery. Egg density in the freestyle incubators are 38.4 pounds per cubic foot (lbs/cu.ft). After eyeing, eggs are transferred to vertical stack incubators for hatching. Egg density at hatching is 5.5 pounds per tray (approximately 9,900 chum eggs).

### **5.5) Rearing Facilities**

McKernan Hatchery: After hatching, fall chum fry are moved from the incubators into a 25' X 380' X 3' gravel bottomed rearing/ release pond (pond 5). Maximum density at time of release is 0.83 lbs/cu.ft.

### **5.6) Acclimation/release facilities.**

McKernan Hatchery: As they grow, fall chum juveniles are acclimated to surface water and are volitionally released. The remaining fish are forced out.

### **5.7) Describe operational difficulties or disasters that led to significant fish mortality.**

None.

**5.8) Indicate available back-up systems, and risk aversion measures that will be applied, that minimize the likelihood for the take of listed natural fish that may result from equipment failure, water loss, flooding, disease transmission, or other events that could lead to injury or mortality.**

McKernan Hatchery is staffed full time with resident professional staff. The hatchery is equipped with alarm systems and backup generator to provide auxiliary power in the event of a power failure. There are provisions at McKernan Hatchery for switching to alternate water sources in the event of the loss of one water source. There is no alternate water source for the incubation room if either of the two production wells are lost.

## **SECTION 6. BROODSTOCK ORIGIN AND IDENTITY**

**Describe the origin and identity of broodstock used in the program, its ESA-listing status, annual collection goals, and relationship to wild fish of the same species/population.**

### **6.1) Source.**

Adults returning to the Weaver Creek (McKernan Hatchery) trap.

### **6.2) Supporting information.**

#### **6.2.1) History.**

McKernan fall chum originated in 1978 from the Hoodsport Hatchery stock. The Hoodsport stock was started in 1955 with a release of 20,000 fingerlings from Hoodsport Hatchery into Hood Canal.

#### **6.2.2) Annual size.**

For McKernan, there is no specific program goal for adult broodstock collection, only for eggtake of 10 million fall chum eggs. Assuming a fecundity of 2,400 eggs per female, a 60% male / 40 % female sex ratio and a prespawning mortality of  $< \text{ or } = 5\%$ , the number of adults required to meet the egg take goal would be about 9,165.

#### **6.2.3) Past and proposed level of natural fish in broodstock.**

Unknown. Can not quantify the level of natural fish in broodstock because the hatchery fall chum are not marked or CWT'd.

#### **6.2.4) Genetic or ecological differences.**

None known.

#### **6.2.5) Reasons for choosing.**

The Hoodsport Hatchery broodstock was the closest stock and was selected for that reason.

### **6.3) Indicate risk aversion measures that will be applied to minimize the likelihood for adverse genetic or ecological effects to listed natural fish that may occur as a result of broodstock selection practices.**

NA

## **SECTION 7. BROODSTOCK COLLECTION**

### **7.1) Life-history stage to be collected (adults, eggs, or juveniles).**

Adults.

### **7.2) Collection or sampling design.**

WDFW shall procure gametes from adults volunteering to McKernan to effect the programs at those particular sites.

At McKernan Hatchery, the adult trap is opened by August 1 each year. All chum returning to McKernan after October 15th are considered fall chum. Fish enter the adult holding/juvenile release pond and are held until they are ready to spawn, typically about a week. The trap is only closed when the maximum carrying capacity for broodstock has been reached. The trap is effective in trapping returning adults, however, some natural spawning does occur below the trap on low-water years.

### **7.3) Identity.**

Hatchery returns

### **7.4) Proposed number to be collected:**

#### **7.4.1) Program goal (assuming 1:1 sex ratio for adults):**

For McKernan, there is no specific program goal for adult broodstock collection, only for eggtake of 10 million fall chum eggs. Assuming a fecundity of 2,400 eggs per female, a 60% male / 40 % female sex ratio and a prespawning mortality of  $\leq 5\%$ , the number of adults required to meet the egg take goal would be about 9,165.

**7.4.2) Broodstock collection levels for the last twelve years (e.g. 1988-99), or for most recent years available:**

Year	Adults Females	Males	Jacks	Eggs	Juveniles
1988					
1989					
1990					
1991					
1992					
1993					
1994					
1995	3,903	3,812		8,860,000	
1996	6,793	6,181		16,863,000	
1997	4,829	4,870		11,972,000	
1998	6,660	6,645		16,851,000	
1999	4,033	3,959		11,874,000	
2000	573	575		1,376,900	
2001	3,856	3,856		10,537,600	

Data source: McKernan hatchery records

**7.5) Disposition of hatchery-origin fish collected in surplus of broodstock needs.**

Fall chum collected in excess of egg take needs at McKernan are killed rather than passed upstream. See below for information on carcass disposal.

**7.6) Fish transportation and holding methods.**

NA

**7.7) Describe fish health maintenance and sanitation procedures applied.**

Fish health measures are consistent with the Co-Managers fish health policy (NWIFC and WDFW 1998).

**7.8) Disposition of carcasses.**

Carcasses, both spawned and unspawned, may be sold to a contracted buyer, donated to a food bank, tribe or used as part of an approved nutrient enhancement program.

**7.9) Indicate risk aversion measures that will be applied to minimize the likelihood for adverse genetic or ecological effects to listed natural fish resulting from the broodstock collection program.**

NA

## **SECTION 8. MATING**

**Describe fish mating procedures that will be used, including those applied to meet performance indicators identified previously.**

### **8.1) Selection method.**

All ripe fish are selected randomly for spawning from available broodstock.

### **8.2) Males.**

Males are selected randomly and mated 5 X 5 with the females.

### **8.3) Fertilization.**

Eggs and milt are pooled from 5 females and 5 males and allowed to sit for 5 minutes. Fertilized eggs are weighed into Japanese freestyle incubators containing 100 parts per million (ppm) iodine solution for egg disinfection during water-hardening for 1 hour.

### **8.4) Cryopreserved gametes.**

NA

### **8.5) Indicate risk aversion measures that will be applied to minimize the likelihood for adverse genetic or ecological effects to listed natural fish resulting from the mating scheme.**

NA

## **SECTION 9. INCUBATION AND REARING -**

**Specify any management *goals* (e.g. “egg to smolt survival”) that the hatchery is currently operating under for the hatchery stock in the appropriate sections below. Provide data on the success of meeting the desired hatchery goals.**

### **9.1) Incubation:**

#### **9.1.1) Number of eggs taken and survival rates to eye-up and/or ponding.**

From Hood Canal Operational Plan:

McKernan:

Green egg to fry survival: Range of 88.8% to 99.4%

Fry to fingerling smolt survival: Range of 95.8% to 99.2%

#### **9.1.2) Cause for, and disposition of surplus egg takes.**

Egg takes shall be managed to limit the likelihood of surplus eggs.

#### **9.1.3) Loading densities applied during incubation.**

At McKernan, Japanese freestyle incubators are loaded at a maximum of 300-325 pounds (lbs) of eggs per incubator (28.9 lbs./ft<sup>3</sup>) with flows set at 18 gpm per tier of 5 incubators. When eyed, they are transferred to vertical incubators for hatching at a rate of 5.5 pounds of eggs per tray with a inflow of 4 gpm. Loading density for hatching is 25 lbs./ft<sup>3</sup>.

#### **9.1.4) Incubation conditions.**

At McKernan Hatchery eggs are incubated and hatched on well water. Water used for incubation is a constant 47<sup>0</sup> F.

#### **9.1.5) Ponding.**

Fry are forced ponded when yolk absorption is 95%+ complete (105 days from egg take) into a 20' X 77' X 2.5' concrete raceway.

#### **9.1.6) Fish health maintenance and monitoring.**

Fish health is monitored on a routine basis by the Area Fish Health Specialist. If needed, treatment plans are prescribed in accordance with the WDFW Fish Health Manual and

Policies.

**9.1.7) Indicate risk aversion measures that will be applied to minimize the likelihood for adverse genetic and ecological effects to listed fish during incubation.**

NA

**9.2) Rearing:**

**9.2.1) Provide survival rate data (*average program performance*) by hatchery life stage (fry to fingerling; fingerling to smolt) for the most recent twelve years (1988-99), or for years dependable data are available..**

From Hood Canal Operational Plan:

McKernan:

Green egg to fry survival: Range of 88.8% to 99.4%

Fry to fingerling smolt survival: Range of 95.8% to 99.2%

**9.2.2) Density and loading criteria (goals and actual levels).**

In general, loading and density levels conform to standards and guidelines set forth in Piper, et. al., 1982.

**9.2.3) Fish rearing conditions**

At McKernan Hatchery the fish are reared in ambient surface water from Weaver Creek. Re-use water or well water from the raceways may be used to augment flows when pond loadings are high or surface water flows are low.

**9.2.4) Indicate biweekly or monthly fish growth information (*average program performance*), including length, weight, and condition factor data collected during rearing, if available.**

Not available.

**9.2.5) Indicate monthly fish growth rate and energy reserve data (*average program performance*), if available.**

Not available.

**9.2.6) Indicate food type used, daily application schedule, feeding rate range (e.g. % B.W./day and lbs/gpm inflow), and estimates of total food conversion efficiency during rearing (*average program performance*).**

Fish are reared in a diet of Bio Oregons' Bio-Diet Starter and Grower feed at rates between 1.7 and 2.8% B.W./day.

**9.2.7) Fish health monitoring, disease treatment, and sanitation procedures.**

WDFW Fish Health Specialist monitors fish prior to release for any viral pathogens.

**9.2.8) Smolt development indices (e.g. gill ATPase activity), if applicable.**

NA

**9.2.9) Indicate the use of "natural" rearing methods as applied in the program.**

None

**9.2.10) Indicate risk aversion measures that will be applied to minimize the likelihood for adverse genetic and ecological effects to listed fish under propagation.**

NA

## **SECTION 10. RELEASE**

**Describe fish release levels, and release practices applied through the hatchery program.**

### **10.1) Proposed fish release levels.**

The core fall chum program at McKernan is the release of 10 million fed fry, to be released in April at a size of 450 fpp (2001 Current Brood Document). Samples of fish are weighed and measured prior to release to estimate variation in size.

Table. Core fall chum program at McKernan Hatchery showing on-station fingerling releases.

<b>Age Class</b>	<b>Maximum Number</b>	<b>Size (fpp)</b>	<b>Release Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Eggs</b>				
<b>Unfed Fry</b>				
<b>Fry</b>	8,000,000	450	April	Weaver Creek
	2,000,000	550	April	Weaver Creek
<b>Fingerling</b>				
<b>Yearling</b>				

### **10.2) Specific location(s) of proposed release(s).**

**Stream, river, or watercourse:** Weaver Creek  
**Release point:** Weaver Creek at RM 1.8 (McKernan Hatchery, 16.0006)  
**Major watershed:** Skokomish River  
**Basin or Region:** Hood Canal

**10.3) Actual numbers and sizes of fish released by age class through the program.**

Release year	Eggs/ Unfed Fry	Avg size	Fry	Avg size	Fingerling	Avg size	Yearling	Avg size
1988								
1989								
1990								
1991								
1992								
1993								
1994								
1995			9,598,900	492				
1996			10,086,828	552				
1997			10,655,110	662				
1998			8,823,475	455				
1999			9,969,350	440				
2000			7,764,900	425				
2001			1,327,160	296				
Average			8,317,960	475				

Data source: McKernan hatchery records

**10.4) Actual dates of release and description of release protocols.**

McKernan fall chum are generally released after April 1 when they exhibit strong migratory behavior (schooling and swimming around ponds) and migratory appearance (silver body coloration). Release is volitional for the first 24 hours and the fish are free to leave. After about 24 hours, the water level in the ponds is lowered to flush out the remaining fish. It takes 2-3 days for all the fish to leave the pond.

**10.5) Fish transportation procedures, if applicable.**

NA

**10.6) Acclimation procedures.**

The major water source for rearing at McKernan is surface water (Weaver Creek) which should increase the likelihood that fall chum reared and released on-station will return to the hatchery.

**10.7) Marks applied, and proportions of the total hatchery population marked, to identify hatchery adults.**

None

**10.8) Disposition plans for fish identified at the time of release as surplus to programmed or approved levels.**

NA

**10.9) Fish health certification procedures applied pre-release.**

Each lot of fish is examined by a WDFW Fish Health Specialist prior to release or transfer, in accordance with the Co-Managers Salmonid Disease Policy.

**10.10) Emergency release procedures in response to flooding or water system failure.**

In the event of a water system failure, screens would be pulled to allow fish to exit the pond. In some cases they can be transferred into other rearing vessels to prevent an emergency release. In cases of severe flooding, the screens are not pulled. Past experience has shown that the fish tend to home to the bottom of the pond and only those that are inadvertently swept out are allowed to leave.

**10.11) Indicate risk aversion measures that will be applied to minimize the likelihood for adverse genetic and ecological effects to listed fish resulting from fish releases.**

Hatchery fall chum will be smaller than chinook and any fluvial or anadromous bull trout which they might encounter in the lower Skokomish. Although wild summer chum are considered extirpated in the Skokomish River, the Summer Chum Conservation Initiative (SCSCI) requires that no hatchery fish releases are to occur prior to April 1 as a protection measure during out-migration of listed Hood Canal summer chum.

It is unknown about saltwater interactions between hatchery fall chum and listed wild chinook and summer chum, but we expect that wild summer chum would have cleared lower Hood Canal before the fall chum are released (after April 1).

## **SECTION 11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

### **11.1) Monitoring and evaluation of “Performance Indicators” presented in Section 1.10.**

#### **11.1.1) Describe plans and methods proposed to collect data necessary to respond to each “Performance Indicator” identified for the program.**

The comanagers conduct numerous ongoing monitor programs, including catch, escapement, marking, tagging, and fish health testing. The focus of enhanced monitoring and evaluation programs will be on the risks posed by ecological interactions with listed species. WDFW is proceeding on four tracks:

- 1) An ongoing research program conducted by Duffy et al. (2002) is assessing the nearshore distribution, size structure, and trophic interactions of juvenile salmon, and potential predators and competitors, in northern and southern Puget Sound. Funding is provided through the federal Hatchery Scientific Review Group.
  
- 2) A three year study of the estuarine and early marine use of Sinclair Inlet by juvenile salmonids is nearing completion. The project has four objectives:
  - a) Assess the spatial and temporal use of littoral habitats by juvenile chinook throughout the time these fish are available in the inlet;
  - b) Assess the use of offshore (i.e., non-littoral) habitats by juvenile chinook;
  - c) Determine how long cohorts of juvenile chinook salmon are present in Sinclair inlet;
  - d) Examine the trophic ecology of juvenile chinook in Sinclair Inlet. This will consist of evaluating the diets of wild chinook salmon and some of their potential predators and competitors. Funding is provided by the USDD-Navy.
  
- 3) WDFW is developing the design for a research project to assess the risks of predation on listed species by coho salmon and steelhead released from artificial production programs. Questions which this project will address include:
  - a) How does trucking and the source of fish (within watershed or out of watershed) affect the migration rate of juvenile steelhead?
  - b) How many juvenile chinook salmon of natural origin do coho salmon and steelhead consume?
  - c) What is the rate of residualism of steelhead in Puget Sound rivers?Funding needs have not yet been quantified, but would likely be met through a combination of federal and state sources.

4) WDFW is assisting the Hatchery Scientific Review Group in the development of a template for a regional monitoring plan. The template will provide an integrated assessment of hatchery and wild populations.

**11.1.2) Indicate whether funding, staffing, and other support logistics are available or committed to allow implementation of the monitoring and evaluation program.**

See Section 11.1.1.

**11.2) Indicate risk aversion measures that will be applied to minimize the likelihood for adverse genetic and ecological effects to listed fish resulting from monitoring and evaluation activities.**

Risk aversion measures will be developed in conjunction with the monitoring and evaluation plans.

## **SECTION 12. RESEARCH**

**12.1) Objective or purpose.**

Not applicable.

**12.2) Cooperating and funding agencies.**

**12.3) Principle investigator or project supervisor and staff.**

**12.4) Status of stock, particularly the group affected by project, if different than the stock(s) described in Section 2.**

**12.5) Techniques: include capture methods, drugs, samples collected, tags applied.**

**12.6) Dates or time period in which research activity occurs.**

**12.7) Care and maintenance of live fish or eggs, holding duration, transport methods.**

**12.8) Expected type and effects of take and potential for injury or mortality.**

**12.9) Level of take of listed fish: number or range of fish handled, injured, or killed by sex, age, or size, if not already indicated in Section 2 and the attached “take table” (Table 1).**

**12.10) Alternative methods to achieve project objectives.**

**12.11) List species similar or related to the threatened species; provide number and causes of mortality related to this research project.**

**12.12) Indicate risk aversion measures that will be applied to minimize the likelihood for adverse ecological effects, injury, or mortality to listed fish as a result of the proposed research activities.**

## **SECTION 13. ATTACHMENTS AND CITATIONS**

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Washington Department of Fisheries, Washington Department of Wildlife, and Western Washington Treaty Indian Tribes. 1993. 1992 Washington State Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory. Olympia. 212 p.

Washington Department of Fisheries and Point No Point Treaty Council. 1996. Hood Canal Salmon and Steelhead Production 1996 MOU.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Point No Point Treaty Tribes. 2000. Summer Chum Salmon Conservation Initiative: An Implementation Plan to Recover Summer Chum Salmon in the Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca Region. Jim Ames, Gary Graves, and Chris Weller, editors. Fish Program, Washington. Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia. 423 p. + app.

**SECTION 14. CERTIFICATION LANGUAGE AND SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE PARTY**

“I hereby certify that the foregoing information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that the information provided in this HGMP is submitted for the purpose of receiving limits from take prohibitions specified under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.1531-1543) and regulations promulgated thereafter for the proposed hatchery program, and that any false statement may subject me to the criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. 1001, or penalties provided under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.”

Name, Title, and Signature of Applicant:

Certified by \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Table 1. Estimated listed salmonid take levels of by hatchery activity.

<b>Listed species affected: Chinook ESU/Population: Puget Sound Activity: Hatchery operations</b>				
<b>Location of hatchery activity: McKernan Hatchery Dates of activity: October to April Hatchery program operator: WDFW</b>				
<b>Type of Take</b>	<b>Annual Take of Listed Fish By Life Stage (<i>Number of Fish</i>)</b>			
	<b>Egg/Fry</b>	<b>Juvenile/Smolt</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Carcass</b>
<b>Observe or harass a)</b>				
<b>Collect for transport b)</b>				
<b>Capture, handle, and release c)</b>			Unknown	
<b>Capture, handle, tag/mark/tissue sample, and release d)</b>				
<b>Removal (e.g. broodstock) e)</b>				
<b>Intentional lethal take f)</b>				
<b>Unintentional lethal take g)</b>		Unknown	Unknown	
<b>Other Take (specify) h)</b>				

- a. Contact with listed fish through stream surveys, carcass and mark recovery projects, or migrational delay at weirs.
- b. Take associated with weir or trapping operations where listed fish are captured and transported for release.
- c. Take associated with weir or trapping operations where listed fish are captured, handled and released upstream or downstream.
- d. Take occurring due to tagging and/or bio-sampling of fish collected through trapping operations prior to upstream or downstream release, or through carcass recovery programs.
- e. Listed fish removed from the wild and collected for use as broodstock.
- f. Intentional mortality of listed fish, usually as a result of spawning as broodstock.
- g. Unintentional mortality of listed fish, including loss of fish during transport or holding prior to spawning or prior to release into the wild, or, for integrated programs, mortalities during incubation and rearing.
- h. Other takes not identified above as a category.

***Instructions:***

- 1. An entry for a fish to be taken should be in the take category that describes the greatest impact.
- 2. Each take to be entered in the table should be in one take category only (there should not be more than one entry for the same sampling event).
- 3. If an individual fish is to be taken more than once on separate occasions, each take must be entered in the take table.

Table 1. Estimated listed salmonid take levels of by hatchery activity.

<b>Listed species affected: Summer chum ESU/Population: Hood Canal Activity: Hatchery operations</b>				
<b>Location of hatchery activity: McKernan Hatchery Dates of activity: October to April Hatchery program operator: WDFW</b>				
<b>Type of Take</b>	<b>Annual Take of Listed Fish By Life Stage (<i>Number of Fish</i>)</b>			
	<b>Egg/Fry</b>	<b>Juvenile/Smolt</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Carcass</b>
<b>Observe or harass a)</b>				
<b>Collect for transport b)</b>				
<b>Capture, handle, and release c)</b>				
<b>Capture, handle, tag/mark/tissue sample, and release d)</b>				
<b>Removal (e.g. broodstock) e)</b>				
<b>Intentional lethal take f)</b>				
<b>Unintentional lethal take g)</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Unknown</b>		
<b>Other Take (specify) h)</b>				