

Elwha Chinook HGMP: Comments via email:

**1) From:** Greg Armstrong [mailto:wbulakeforestpark@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2012 6:57 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Jon (DFW)  
**Subject:** public comment Elwha

Sir,

In all due respect if we've "learned" anything about hatchery produced anadromous fish species over the last ten years as was reported in the WDFW review for a Chinook hatchery on the Elwha, wouldn't it be best to not build a hatchery on that river system (or any others in the state for that matter)?

For the record, I am against any new hatchery production on the Elwha.

Greg Armstrong  
9828 Crystal Lake Drive  
Woodinville, WA. 98077

**2) From:** Bob Burkholder [mailto:burkholder.bob@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 5:41 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Jon (DFW)  
**Subject:** Elwah Chinook

It's my information (as a wildlife biologist) from talking with an old resident Elway River fisherman (now deceased) that the Elway produced a 'sport' of King Salmon of extraordinarily large size and vigor. It was not uncommon to catch in excess of 100lb. fish.

If this is true, the watershed likely still has the potential of reproducing this quality of fish over time and I believe a hatchery program could be detrimental to that process.

**3) From:** Inka Fausett [<mailto:inka.fausett@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2012 1:52 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Jon (DFW)  
**Subject:** Elwa Hatchery and Restoration of Salmon

Jon,

Today I read in the Peninsula Daily News the article regarding **Hatchery Meeting Provides Answers**. I personally am opposed to hatcheries and more so to genetically modified fish. Although that is NOT my concern with this article. My concern is whether the Smolt Traps that have been placed on the West and East Twin Rivers are in deed a part of a scientific study by the Elwha and NOAA.

Per a neighbor I was educated on these smolt traps as follows:

*"The smolt traps are run by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, but because the two Twins are part of a scientific study (Intensely Monitored Watershed), NOAA fisheries is also helping out.*

*I'm opposed to the smolt traps, but they are not relocating fish to the Elwha River. They are merely counting the smolts -- which are baby salmon heading out to sea. They count the number of smolts every year to get an idea of how healthy the populations are and whether they are recovering or declining. (Salmon and steelhead are declining) The traps force the smolts into a box. Once a day, the tribe or NOAA comes out and counts the fish. They drug them, weigh them, measure them, put them in a recovery bucket and then release them to continue their journey."*

After reading about the suit against several parties including NOAA are these smolt traps INDEED part of a scientific study or are the smolt being relocated to the Elwha River?

If they are being relocated to the Elwha River then why are hard earned tax dollars being spent on biologists monitoring and counting the fish in the West and East Twin River?

Are the West and East Twin Rivers being depleted of Salmon for a fast track recovery of the Elwha River?

Does the right hand know what the left hand is doing with ALL these different organizations doing different projects on the East and West Twin Rivers and the Elwha River?

The last thing I want to do is stir up any trouble but as a landowner in the area someone needs to coordinate and monitor all these different projects and preferably one that leaves NO concern to the citizens that there is a **conflict of interest**. As it currently stands if my understanding is correct I personally see a conflict of interest when it comes to NOAA and the Elwha doing a scientific study on the East and West Twin River involving smolt traps while at the same time both NOAA and the Elwha are working on restoring the salmon to the Elwha River.

PS - If you can point me to a URL that identifies everything going on with respect to the East and West Twin Rivers as well as the Elwha River I would appreciate it. This would allow me to educate myself further in the meantime and possibly eliminate my concern regarding any conflict of interests going on with the rivers. I am all for restoring the Elwha River but do not want to see the East and West Twin Rivers potentially suffering if smolt are potentially being relocated.

**4a) From:** hisgarness@comcast.net [mailto:hisgarness@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 12:07 PM

**To:** Anderson, Jon (DFW)

**Subject:** Fwd: Elwah Chinook Hatcheries

An omission / post script. This is going to go contrary to current logic, but any allowable commercial / aboriginal harvest should be via fish traps. This would allow for harvest discrimination and preclude "by-catch" or collateral damage on wild stocks. The mind set of dis-allowing fish traps because they are "too" effective is obsolete. If we cannot be trusted to monitor the harvest and work toward the

benefit of resource survival, the cause is lost and your efforts ultimately will not matter, regardless of the plan adopted. Garry

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**4b) From:** [hisgarness@comcast.net](mailto:hisgarness@comcast.net)  
**To:** "jon anderson" <[jon.anderson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:jon.anderson@dfw.wa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 10:03:17 AM  
**Subject:** Elwah Chinook Hatcheries

Hi Jon,

Now 65 years of age I'm a Wa St resident of 64 years, a fly fisher, a one time fisheries activist, ( Steelhead Trout Club of Wa past Pres, W.E.C., T.U. and more ), and an amature armchair biologist. The local "hatchery" saga is the fishery manifestation of human overpopulation and natural resource depletion. Within the WDFW you have probably the best data available for this decision. A very similiar example of this resource challenge is the South Fork of the Skykomish river. Uniquely there would be no anadromous fish there, but for human intervention. Recently that Steelhead population has been changed to allow wild fish only above the falls / migrating barrier, presumably to avoid hatchery origin ranging fish from co-mingling w/ wild, ( not native ), stocks. That this Elwah project be successful is crucial to the concept that the hand of man can indeed help rather than hinder. My limited knowledge recommendation is that you find seed stock that best represents the physical characteristics of "native" stocks and the river environment. When second generation fish evolve independently / naturally, support them in any way possible. This part hurts - - - allow no fishery until the run is "established". There are many fishing / harvesting opportunities, but I think the "Black Hole" concept is best. Designate put and take areas / fisheries like The Cowlitz River or East Fork Lewis. No wild fishery there to impact. if the native human population must harvest, provide a Black Hole"opportunity for them with marked fish, so the struggling wild fish population can be released and get established.

Regards,

Garry Blankenship  
360-863-1485

**5) From:** Dave Hadsell [[mailto:d\\_hadsell@comcast.net](mailto:d_hadsell@comcast.net)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2012 7:25 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Jon (DFW)  
**Subject:** Elway River Hatchery

I thought that the damn dam removal and all that praying was going to fix everything.

**6) From:** [dkirkham@comcast.net](mailto:dkirkham@comcast.net) [<mailto:dkirkham@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2012 9:59 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Jon (DFW)  
**Subject:** elwha plan

Hi Jon,

I love the fact that individuals like you want to "restore" the Elwha. All my life (60 years old) I have heard stories from grandparents and parents about the Elwha Chinook runs and other runs of extraordinary fish. Some have disapeared to never be seen again but now there is

an opportunity to see something generations before us have seen. I have only one suggestion. Use original gene pool salmon for the hatchery and shut down the hatchery as soon as the original gene pool salmon are sustainable from generation to generation. Let nature take its course after conditions have been restored and then treat the resource in a sustainable fashion including harvesting by paying state residents, funds going to oversight and enforcement.

Thanks for your efforts and best wishes on the effort.

Dave Kirkham

**7) From:** NICHOLAS KOSIN [<mailto:nicholaskosin@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 23, 2012 9:44 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Jon (DFW)  
**Subject:** ELWA River Restoration of Chinook Salmon

Mr. Anderson,

I am greatly disappointed in the DFW plans of reintroducing HATCHERY fish into the ELWA River. The whole goal of this restoration is to bring back and have the WILD fish take back over the river.....NOT HATCHERY fish.....which are a much weaker species and your department knows that. I am totally against hatchery fish...let the wild fish spawn naturally. This has worked in Canadian rivers.

Thank you.

Nick Kosin  
7467 East Polk Street  
Port Orchard WA 98366

**8) From:** Neff, Randy [<mailto:NeffR@wsdot.wa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 12:29 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Jon (DFW)  
**Subject:** Elwha River Dam Removal

Mr. Anderson:

Are carcasses from salmon being placed up the length of the Elwha to start the process for the salmon to return?

Randy Neff  
Environmental Planner  
Olympic Region WSDOT  
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9) **From:** Michael Wells [<mailto:salmonblog@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 27, 2012 9:59 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Jon (DFW); Aho, Randy T (DFW); Gross, Michael L (DFW);  
[larry.ward@elwha.nsn.us](mailto:larry.ward@elwha.nsn.us)  
**Subject:** Questions about Elwha HGMP

Hi,

Let me begin by saying I have not read the entire draft and this is not really a comment, so the answer to my question may lie within. Is there any set of standards to evaluate whether or not the ongoing hatchery operation is positively/negatively affecting the natural/wild spawning populations in the recolonization and local adaptation steps of this? And if not, how would you know if the hatchery operation isn't holding the population back from self-sustainability in light of various studies showing hatchery fish weakening gene pools and competing with natural/wild fish for food thereby possibly keeping you from your goal?

Also, what happens to the hatchery if you reach a self-sustaining population, is it reclaimed or retooled for other work?

Thank you,

Michael Wells  
The Salmon Blog  
McCall, ID 83638