

FWC Fish Committee Co-Manager Hatchery Policy – Briefing January 26, 2023

Ron Warren and Kenneth Warheit
Fish Program



FWC Hatchery Policy (C-3624)

Co-manager Hatchery Policy required by C-3624

“Upon adoption of this Policy by the Commission, the Director is tasked to begin development of a joint policy agreement on salmon and steelhead hatchery programs with Tribal Co-Managers”

“When completed and approved by Tribal Co-Managers and the Commission, new Tribal Co-Manager joint policy agreements shall supersede the provisions of this Policy in the geographic area applicable to the particular agreement.”



Development of Co-Manager Hatchery Policy

- September 15, 2021: Initial meeting among Co-Manager policymakers and technical staff
 - Instructed technical staff to draft outline based on objectives from the policymakers
 - Technical staff: WDFW, Tribal, NWIFC, and CRITFC
- January – November 2022: Meetings and many drafts
- November 4, 2022: Final DRAFT policy approved for comprehensive review by policymakers
 - Policymaker Team: Representatives from the WDFW FW Commission, and Puget Sound, Coastal, and Columbia River Tribes.



Foundational Values of the Policy

- Joint commitment to work as Co-Managers to develop and implement hatchery management plans.
- Conservation of natural-spawning populations and their habitats.
- Hatcheries managed on a watershed or regional basis.
- Legacy habitat degradation, ongoing habitat loss, and changing environmental conditions and ecosystem functions requires ongoing mitigation.
- “[Hatchery programs] are designed essentially to replace natural fish lost to non-Indian degradation of the habitat and commercialization of the fishing industry.” *United States v. State of Wash.*, 759 F.2d 1353, 1360 (9th Cir. 1985).



Scope of the Policy

- Applies to all Co-Managed anadromous salmon and steelhead hatchery programs operated within Washington State by Co-Managers who are signatories to the policy.
- Specific hatchery program plans that are consistent with this policy will supersede direction FWC Policy C-3624.
- Hatchery program plans (e.g., HGMPs) agreed to by Co-Managers as of the date this policy is signed, will remain in place until agreed to otherwise in accordance with this policy.



Guiding Principles

(discussed more fully during full Commission meeting Jan. 27, 2023)

- **Principle 1:** Tribal Treaty Rights: Hatcheries are parts of regional salmonid management plans that support Treaty Rights
- **Principle 2:** Hatchery fish support Treaty Right fishing obligations
- **Principle 3:** Hatcheries produce fish for state-regulated recreational and commercial fishing
- **Principle 4:** Existing or future regional- or watershed-based hatchery program plans include goals, all-H approach, hatchery operations, ecosystem and natural-spawning population concerns, and balance of benefits and risks.
- **Principle 5:** Hatcheries operate in a scientifically sound and defensible manner and include adaptive management
- **Principle 6:** Hatcheries are adequately funded



High-level Comparison between C-3624 and Co-Manager Policy

Subject	C-3624	Draft Co-Manager Policy
Applicable to:	All WDFW anadromous salmon and steelhead facilities and programs not covered by the Co-Manager Policy	Co-Managed anadromous salmon and steelhead facilities and programs operated by Co-Managers who are signatories to the policy
Hatchery operation plans	Hatchery Management Plans (HMPs) required for all programs	Existing and future Co-Manager agreed-to documents (e.g., HGMPs) that are regional or watershed-based
Management of risks (R) and benefits (B)	Balance of R & B achieved through a WDFW decision making process described in forthcoming Technical Procedures Document	Balance of R & B achieved through decisions made mutually between WDFW and specific Tribes and codified in Co-Manager agreed-to hatchery plans



Updated Proposed Schedule

DATE	MEETING	OUTCOME
January 27, 2023	Fish Committee and Full Commission Webinar	Decision concerning public review and SEPA process. The following assumes FWC decided to approve public review and SEPA process
January 30, 2023		Commission website for distribution of draft policy and to receive public comment. Public comment period open until close of SEPA comment period. See below
Jan 30 – Feb 28, 2023		WDFW staff conducts SEPA review and makes determination
March 1 – 15, 2023		Public comment period on SEPA determination.
March 16 – 18, 2023	Fish Committee and full Commission Meeting Wenatchee, WA	Staff discusses SEPA determination. Progress report on process.
March 15 – 31, 2023		Staff review of SEPA and public comments
April 6 – 8, 2023	Fish Committee and full Commission Meeting Anacortes, WA	Report to the Fish Committee and full Commission on the results of the public review and SEPA review processes.
June 22 – 24, 2023 (or sooner)	Fish Committee and full Commission Meeting Seattle, WA	Staff presents the final draft of the Co-Manager Hatchery Policy to the Fish Committee and full Commission. Commission makes a decision on adoption of the policy.



Full Commission's Decisions Jan. 27, 2023

- Decide if the draft policy is ready for formal public review
- Decide if the draft policy is ready for SEPA review and evaluation
- Decide if the proposed schedule is appropriate





Questions and Discussion