



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
525 NE Oregon Street  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-2737

July 9, 2003

Co-managers and interested parties:

This letter announces the start of Phase II of NOAA Fisheries' comprehensive process to develop Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) for salmon and steelhead propagation programs throughout the Columbia Basin. Financial support for this process and the involvement of the state and tribal co-managers, is provided by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in accordance with Action #169 of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) in NOAA Fisheries' Biological Opinion on the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS), issued pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in December 2000. A more complete description of the process and its relationship to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Artificial Production Review and Evaluation (APRE), *US v. Oregon*, subbasin and recovery planning, and other concurrent processes is included in an enclosure to this letter.

The first phase of the HGMP process was meshed with the Council's APRE project. As a result of that combined effort, or as a product of ESA deliberations over existing propagation programs between NOAA Fisheries and the program operators, draft HGMPs are now available in electronic file form (in varying states of development) for all propagation programs in the Basin. This next phase (phase II) of the HGMP process involves a series of open and collaborative workshops organized around manageable groupings of propagation programs taking place in one or more provinces.

This is how the process is envisioned to work: using the HGMP template as a focal point, workshop participants will review each program (or proposed program) and discuss how it should be operated and/or reformed to accomplish its conservation or harvest objectives as effectively as possible. Another purpose of the review, and the reason the process is financially supported by BPA, is that the participants will seek to identify reforms that could provide additional benefits to the listed salmon and steelhead covered by the FCRPS RPA. BPA will be credited for additional benefits to listed species resulting from propagation related actions it funds. NOAA Fisheries' regional biologists will attend the workshops to help participants mesh Technical Recovery Team and other ESA considerations into this process; one goal is that the HGMPs and associated reforms can be covered pursuant to section 4(d), 7, or 10 of the ESA.

We designed this process based on the premise that artificial production programs affect many parties, and thus should be discussed in an open and collaborative forum. Its success depends in large part on the active and constructive participation of the key players: those who operate and/or are affected by these programs, or hold strong scientific or policy views on how they should be operated. Thus, it is critical that knowledgeable representatives of your agency, tribe, or group consistently participate in the sessions that involve production programs of interest to you.



Prior to each workshop, participants should familiarize themselves with the pertinent draft HGMPs and prepare to discuss potential reforms. We anticipate that the initial meetings will focus on propagation program background information and on the potential resolution of key issues. Subsequent sessions will focus on unresolved issues. Following each workshop, the operators of the programs will be expected to modify as agreed and distribute evolving drafts of HGMPs, identify alternatives that reflect the results of the deliberations, or explain in sufficient detail why an existing HGMP is most appropriate.

When all of the collaborative Phase II discussions that affect a particular Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) have been concluded, NOAA Fisheries will review the resulting HGMPs, both individually and from an ESU-wide perspective. The HGMP collaborators may be asked to convene again to consider changes that may be recommended as a result of this review.

A workshop schedule is enclosed. The entire process is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2004. There are several related processes such as subbasin planning and recovery planning underway in the Basin. Accordingly, representatives of other processes will be afforded opportunity to provide input at the HGMP sessions and, conversely, the evolving draft HGMPs will be made available to them. We want to ensure that the HGMP process remains as closely linked and complementary to these other processes as possible while completing the intended purposes of the HGMP process on schedule.

Rick Applegate has been retained to help manage the HGMP process. His role will be to ensure that issues are identified and addressed at each workshop, that appropriate linkages with key players and other processes are maintained, and that the overall process moves along according to schedule to a successful conclusion. He can be reached at [rickapplegate@earthlink.net](mailto:rickapplegate@earthlink.net) or (503) 407-1551. Bob Foster will be coordinating the process for NOAA Fisheries; he can be reached at [Robert.Foster@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.Foster@noaa.gov) or (360) 753-9594.

We at NOAA Fisheries believe that this process affords the region a unique and promising opportunity to address artificial production planning on a comprehensive, Basin-wide scale. We thank you in advance for your active and constructive participation in this process.

Sincerely,



Rob Walton, Assistant Regional Administrator  
Salmon Recovery Division

Enclosures: The Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan (HGMP) Process And  
Integration with Subbasin Planning, TRT/Recover Planning and *US v  
Oregon* (Integration April 2 2003 draft.doc)  
Phase II and III Schedule (Schedule 6 24 03s.xls)  
Columbia Basin Programs Discussion Groups (Groups 6 23 03.doc)

## HGMP Announcement Distribution

Olney Patt, Jr., Executive Director, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission  
Allen P. Slickpoo, Jr., Natural Resource Subcommittee Chair, Nez Perce Tribe  
Virgil Holt, Sr., Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee Chair, Nez Perce Tribe  
Jay Minthorn, Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Harold Blackwolf, Sr., Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon  
Virgil Lewis, Sr., Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair, Confederate Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation  
Chad Colter, Fish and Wildlife Coordinator, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe  
Joe Peone, Director Fish and Wildlife, Federated Tribes of the Colville  
Bill Tweit, U.S. V Oregon Policy Representative, Washington Department of fish and Wildlife  
Neal Coenen, U.S. V Oregon Policy Representative, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Sharon Kiefer, U.S. V Oregon Policy Representative, Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Dave Allen, Regional Director, USFWS  
Dan Diggs, Assistant Regional Director, USFWS  
Dr. Jeff Koenings, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Lindsay Ball, Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Steve Huffaker, Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Federal Caucus  
Tom Dayley, Idaho, Subbasin Coordinator  
Jim Caswell, Idaho, Head of OSC  
Jim Owens, Oregon, Subbasin Coordinator  
Karl Weist, Oregon, Council Staff  
Melinda Eden, Council Member  
Anthony W. Grover, Washington, Subbasin Planning Contract Manager  
Kurt Beardslee, Washington Trout  
Joe S. Whitworth, Oregon Trout  
Bill Robinson, Trout Unlimited  
Bill Sedivy, Idaho Rivers United  
Brady Bennon, Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition  
Bill Bakke, Native Fish Society  
C. Clark (Jerry) Leone, Public Power Council  
Rick Klinge, Douglas County PUD  
Chuck Peven, Chelan County PUD  
Stuart Hammond, Grant County PUD  
Phil Groves, Idaho Power Company