

From: Richard Noble
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2003 10:27 AM
To: Comments@nwcouncil.org
Subject: Re: NWPPC Hatchery Report / Re: Comments

My big concern in the APRE report is that it comes off with a negative tone against hatcheries. This is been going on for my 60 years in the business. Certainly the early days of hatcheries was mostly politics and limited biological information on salmon biology and deserved much of the criticism. It has been a number of years since I was directly involved in the various States hatchery programs and much has been changed. I maintain that hatcheries are not limited in what they can accomplish, its the people operating hatcheries that appear to be limited in what they can implement on behalf of hatchery operations. It is time to recognize that the natural spawning systems have dramatically changed from the days before dams and ocean harvest on mixed populations. Just listing numbers of hatchery releases in the report is pretty much meaningless, since size at release, time of release, area of release, health and species designation, is what determines survival rates and the impact upon so called wild fish. The HSRG report has some good basic information, but does not spell out the real needs of a hatchery operation. I will say again, that hatcheries are limited in what they can and will accomplish, only by what management can develop in a professional way.

Sincerely,
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