

From: Steve Pauley  
Sent: Sunday, November 09, 2003 10:47 AM  
To: comments@nwcouncil.org  
Subject: Comment on APRE report document 2003-17

Comments to the NWPPC on hatcheries.

1. Without SAR data for all wild fish runs, what good is any fish "recovery program"?

Same holds for data on straying rates, recruitment, and fall back.

Related comment:

The Army COE holds onto critical data that do not support its barging programs and dam techno-fix programs.

These data either don't exist or are hard to find on the Internet.

Those data that are available show that wild fish

SAR's are better if the wild fish are allowed to either spill over or pass through

the dams. That fact conflicts directly with Army COE's insistent pronouncements that barging smolts improves native survival. There is no such proof. The Corps can only safely state that over 90% of barged smolts survive their "fed ex" trip in barges to the estuary. They then cop-out by saying, "We don't know what happens to them after that."

2. Hatcheries produce cousins, a gene pool insufficient in the long term to allow

wild ESU's to return to sustainable numbers i.e. SAR's above 2%.

The NWPPC must pay specific attention to the runs that return to the 7 indicator

streams monitored by NOAA Fisheries and used by Dr's Mundy and Oosterhaut in their latest extinction clock paper (2001). If the Council only cares about lower Columbia River runs and ignores Idaho's 1800 mile runs, it is in violation of the NW Power Act of 1980. About half of ALL fish entering the Columbia once came from Snake River stocks.

3. There must be an intensive effort to sequence hatchery and wild DNA to see how

wild fish DNA is being influenced by the interbreeding of wild fish with strayed

hatchery fish. Baseline DNA sequencing for all wild ESU's is needed before all wild stocks are gone. These data will serve as a valuable reference for how we did the wrong things to protect the highly subsidized status quo.

4. The Tribes must stop their practice of not clipping hatchery fish. You can get salmon

runs of short distances from the ocean to survive via hatcheries, but in doing that,

you increase the risk of genetic dilution of strayed wild fish whose home waters

are many more miles upstream. The Tribal hatcheries that don't clip are operating

with biological blinders on. This practice should stop asap.

5. The current practice of flooding the river system with hundreds of millions of hatchery fish

will only give a temporary political fix to the ongoing problem of how to solve

the still depressed numbers of wild fish. President Bush's visit to Ice Harbor dam in August, 2003, was a perfect example of zero leadership on native salmon recovery. It was shameful, and the Council did nothing to point out, that at the time of Bush's visit, the high water temps. in Ice Harbor

reservoir

were in violation of the Clean Water Act and had been for many days.

6. The NWPPC must follow the NW Power Act of 1980. That means giving wild fish

the same priority weight as hydropower. I have NEVER seen any Council members step up to the plate and actually follow the law. More studies, posturing, and delays (such as studying the hatchery programs - then punting the issue back to the feds) only put native runs in more jeopardy as the years pass. The Council's policy of the "paralysis of analysis" simply continues.

It would be better for the the Council to just dissolve itself and save the US Taxpayer millions of dollars a year. To date, the Council has nothing to show (in terms of improving the survival of native salmon and steelhead) for its 23 year existence. It is time for the Council members to simply ask, "What are we doing here?"

Thank you,  
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