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**Clatsop County**



September 24, 2002

200209 043

Mark Walker, Director  
Public Affairs Division  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
851 SW Sixth Avenue Suite 1100  
Portland OR 97204

2001 Marine Drive, Rm. 253  
Astoria, Oregon 97103

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you for affording the opportunity to comment on the work of the Independent Economic Analysis Board's (IEAB) review of salmonid recruitment by hatcheries in the Columbia River Basin. As an active participant in those activities and partially funded by Bonneville Power Administration, the Clatsop Economic Development Council (CEDC) Fisheries Project is vitally interested in the methodology and outcome of such a review. As a relative new comer to the area but with a twenty-year history of "artificial" salmon recruitment, I hope I can add some small degree of perspective to the process.

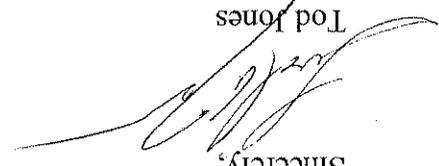
Economic Development  
Council  
Fisheries Project  
Phone (503) 325-6452  
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I concur with the need to evaluate the cost effectiveness of hatchery programs, with however, some degree of caution. It will be difficult to compare projects or facilities that have a particular mission that is dramatically different than those with a separate mission. It will be equally difficult to evaluate different production programs that result in generating secondary and tertiary employment opportunities in established communities to those that only provide incomes to the harvester that directly sells to the retail customer. Likewise, recognizing the biological reality that upriver out-migrants face a much greater gauntlet of predators than those facilities in the lower river may skew the apparent value of a given project.

Our project, now beginning its tenth year of funding by BPA, is based on a research model that requires intensive and extensive monitoring and evaluation. Methodologies of fish culture and the plethora of support facilities, regulatory agencies, and those with oversight impose a variety of costs not normally associated with efficient production. Teasing out all such costs is a task. I feel the economists familiar with this and other projects can do an adequate job, however, it needs to be recognized that production of salmonids and their subsequent harvest even within the constraints of ESA listings, can be accomplished at much greater benefits to cost, if and when our project moves more to a production model. As a research model it needs to be looked at for its potential rather than considering the first nine years of its performance as either the best that

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can be expected or the norm for future projections. I look forward to assisting with the process and its final findings.

Sincerely,  
  
Tod Jones  
Project Manager