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October 5, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee
FROM: Bruce Suzumoto
SUBJECT: APRE implementation issues

Staff will discuss the proposed schedule, findings and recommendations for the APRE report to Congress. Attached is a draft outline of the report. Staff will also describe possible next steps for the APRE process and an approach to identify and integrate subbasin, provincial and basinwide objectives for fish.

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Figure 1.

Need for Escapement and Harvest Objectives in Regional Planning Process

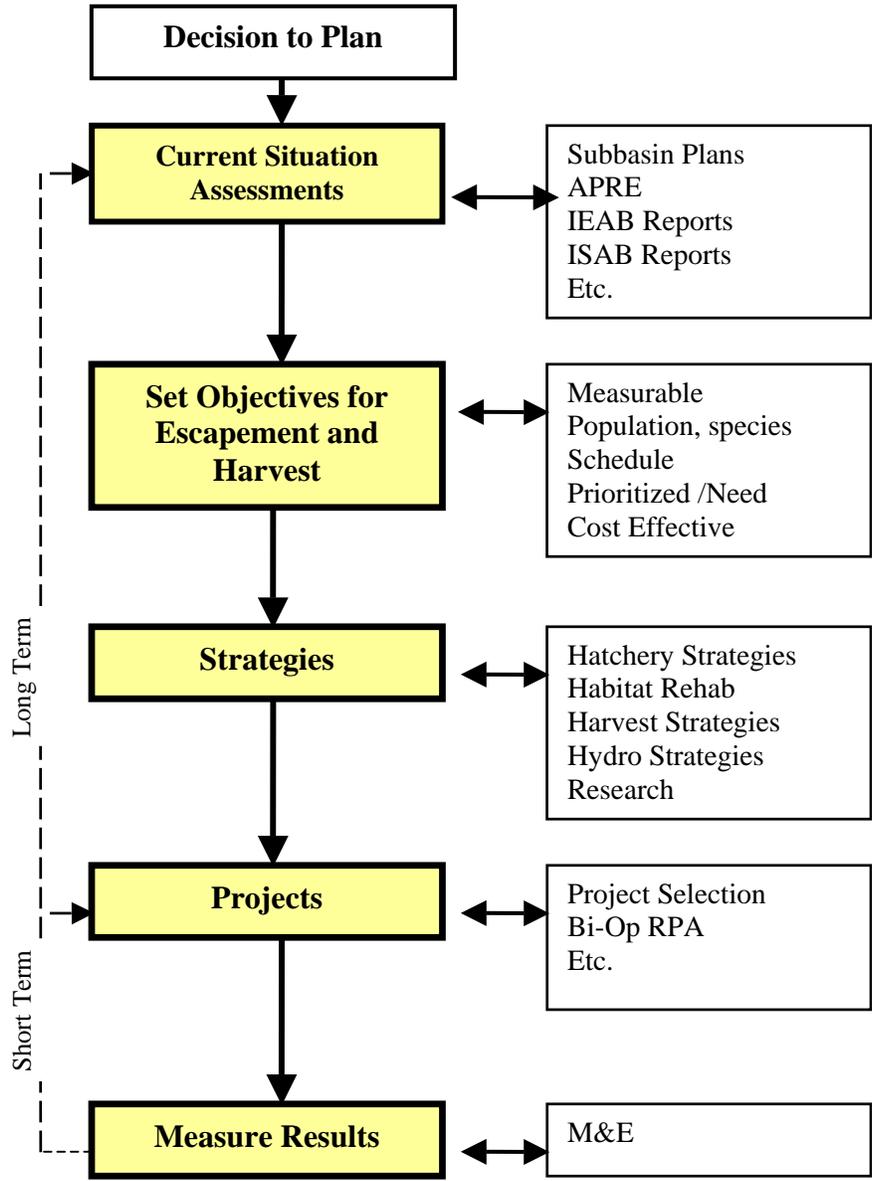


Figure 2.

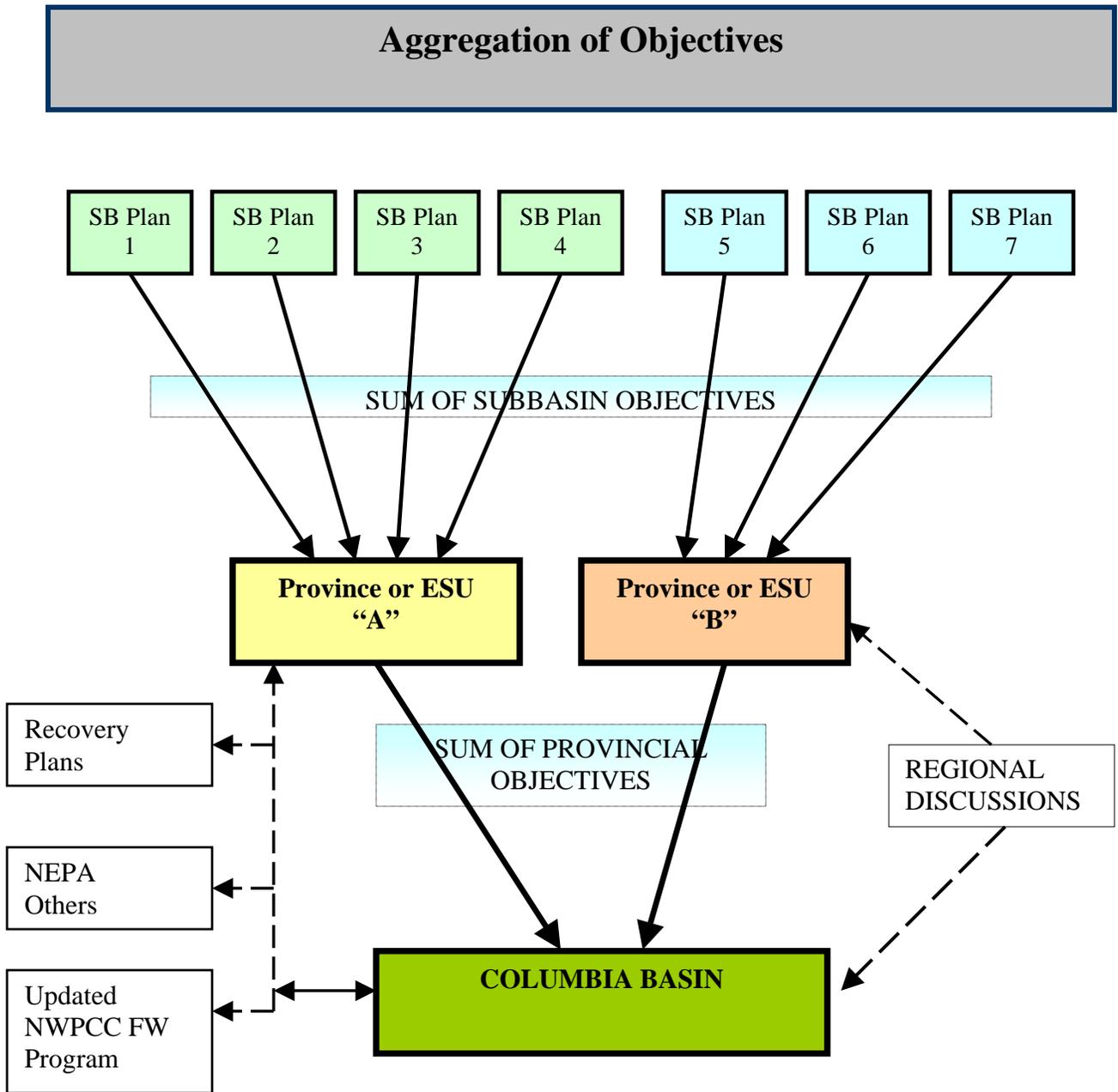
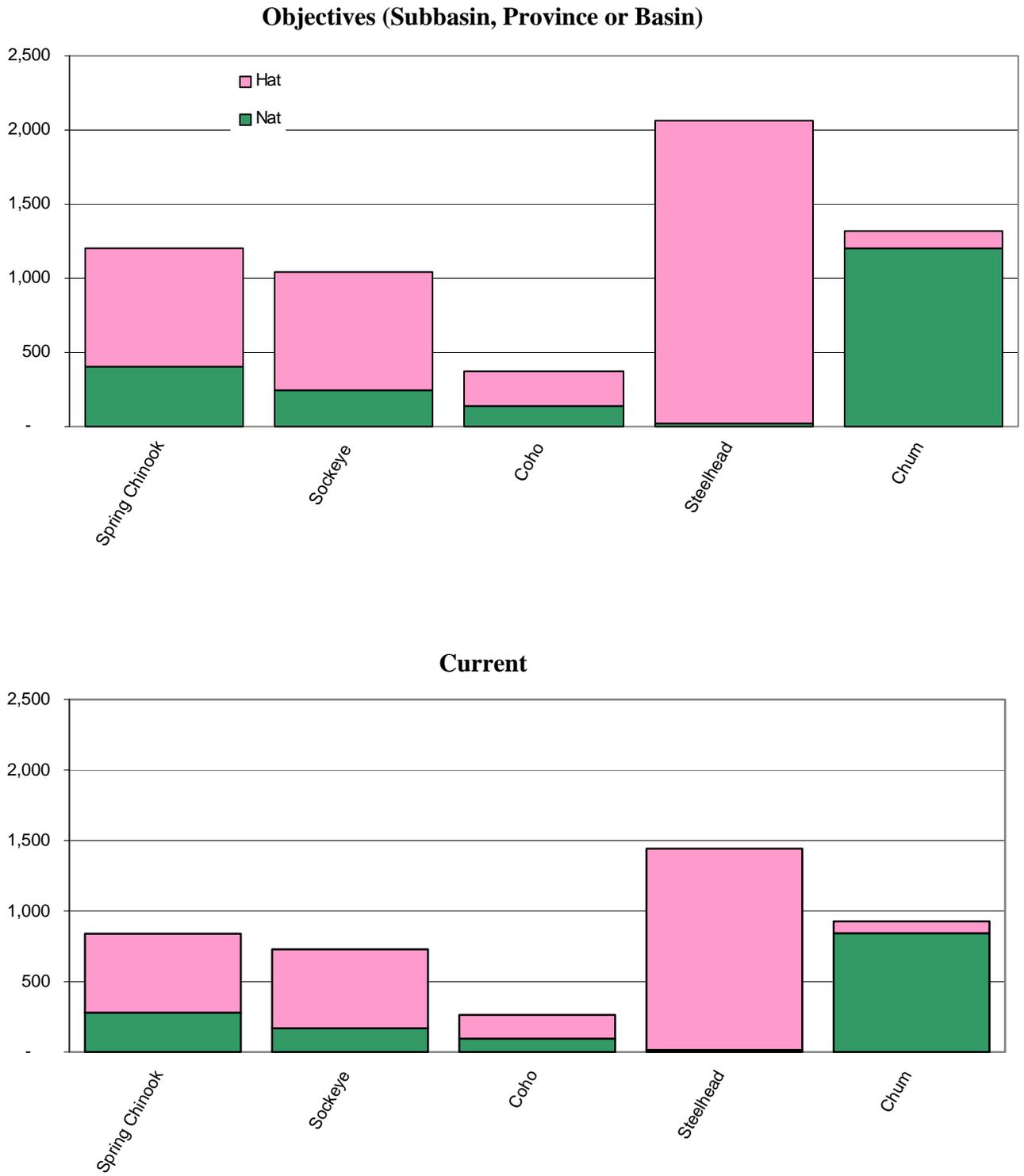


Figure 3.



Draft Outline: Report to Congress on Artificial Production within the Columbia River Basin

I. Introduction

- Request to Northwest Power and Conservation Council in 1997 to review all federally funded hatchery programs in Columbia River Basin and develop a set of coordinated policies to guide the future use of artificial production
- Request grew out of a concern that the artificial production system was not fulfilling its purpose(s)
- Congress wants a status report on artificial production

II. Current Status of Hatcheries: The Artificial Production Review and Evaluation

- Brief description of actions, which occurred subsequent to the request including committees formed and APRE.
- APRE process and products
 - Methodology
 - Conclusions (including the APRE Issues Paper)
 - Data base, documents, and websites

III. The Role of Hatcheries in the Future

- Hatcheries have a role in the future as part of an integrated strategy with habitat restoration/protection and harvest management to meet conservation and harvest goals on a sustainable basis.
- Appropriate use must be made of integrated and segregated hatcheries.
- Hatchery fish as well as wild fish need habitat.
- Hatcheries cannot be viewed as substitutes for natural habitat.
- Hatchery plans must be integrated and consistent with subbasin plans, ESA and NEPA plans and requirements and must be appropriate at all geographic levels within the Basin (subbasin, province, ESU, and Columbia River Basin).
- Hatchery plans must be part of a comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Program that identifies strategies and timeframes for meeting goals and expectations for stock recovery and harvest.

- Hatcheries by their nature are a compromise; the benefits accrued from artificial production must be balanced with the risks to wild stocks and compared to alternative means of achieving the same or similar goals.
- Hatcheries must be consistent with ecological and genetic principles.
- Hatcheries programs must be flexible, responding to changes in needs and in scientific knowledge.

IV. Recommendations for Re-Aligning Hatcheries

- Regional goals and objectives for harvest and conservation must be articulated; changes in hatchery strategies may be needed to reflect the goals and objectives.
 - Hatcheries represent one of the strategies by which goals and objectives of conservation and harvest can be met.
 - Goals and measurable objectives for harvest and conservation and expectations for habitat restoration and preservation must be well described so that the role of hatcheries can be defined.
 - Hatchery strategies must reflect integration of recovery efforts across all 4 Hs.
 - The contributions of hatcheries to harvest and conservation goals must be clearly articulated for all programs and across all watersheds in the Basin.
 - Hatchery program goals must be consistent with the Council's fish and wildlife vision statement and contribute to NOAA Fisheries recovery goals.
 - Articulation of goals and objectives should specify when they would be achieved.
 - Changes in hatchery programs must be cost efficient.
 - Hatchery programs must be either integrated or segregated with operational procedures and facilities designed to achieve specific purposes for one of the two types of programs.
 - Define segregated and integrated programs.
 - Hatchery programs must be compatible with habitat and harvest programs.
- Hatchery reforms must be promptly implemented.
 - Hatchery risk to weak natural stocks must be immediately reduced by adopting and applying prioritization criteria to existing hatchery programs. Working with other regional processes, NOAA's hatchery and genetic management plan (HGMP) effort could appropriately prioritize near-term hatchery actions.

- Risks must be reduced through broodstock management using local broodstocks, integrating natural-origin fish into broodstocks, and/or reducing excessive straying.
 - Risks must be reduced through addressing acute needs at facilities such as fish passage, disease, and water quality problems.
- An action plan to prioritize and implement reforms must be developed. The action plan must be coordinated with NOAA processes.
- Short- and long-term priorities for hatcheries must be identified.

V. Strategies for Implementation of Hatchery Re-alignment

- Goals and objectives of all applicable planning processes should be examined in aggregate.
- Agreement among all interested parties must be reached on definition of regional goals and objectives.
 - A protocol must be developed to allow communication between co-managers and subbasin planning groups.
 - Subbasin plans must include hatcheries and harvest.
- A results-oriented, performance-based management system must be established to guide hatchery reforms.
 - Periodic hatchery reviews which evaluate progress toward resource goals must be conducted. Evaluations will identify where programs changes are needed.
 - Formulate a set of questions, linked to measurable performance indicators and standards, whose answers will determine the success of hatchery programs.
 - Base success of hatchery programs on evaluation of their consistency with resource goals, coordination with other strategies, and progress toward meeting the goals.
 - Establish a panel of experts, representatives of which would attend the periodic reviews, whose role would be to provide advice, contributes to applicable reports, ensure consistency across the Basin, and identify research needs.
 - An internet-based system must be established to aid in evaluating goals and objectives and determining needed changes in hatchery programs. It must efficiently and effectively disseminate data and

information needed for the review process and generate reports. This system will be designed to contain costs.

- The goal of the implementation phase is to help co-managers develop hatchery plans that could form the basis of recommendations to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and are consistent with and complementary to subbasin plans and NOAA recovery goals. The process should not add to the current workload of the co-managers, but should increase efficiency.
 - The process should result in hatchery plans that are consistent with subbasin plans and compatible with NEPA and ESA recovery documents-- resulting in a seamless planning and implementation process throughout the Basin.
- The implementation work plan should be consistent with schedules for ESA and NEPA-related activities.

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