



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
WEST COAST REGION
1201 N.E. Lloyd Blvd, Suite 1100
PORTLAND, OR 97232

December 9, 2013

Bruce McIntosh
Assistant Fish Division Administrator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue NE
Salem, Oregon 97303

Dear Mr. ^{Bruce} McIntosh:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has completed its review of your letter and the four attached Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) submitted under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We first received the HGMPs on August 1, 2013. After receipt of the HGMPs, NMFS was notified that changes in rearing regimes for some of the programs had occurred. These changes were reflected in HGMPs provided to NMFS on October 28, 2013, and via email on November 6, 2013. The HGMPs provide descriptions of the four hatchery programs releasing fish into the Sandy River Basin, Oregon (Table 1). The programs release spring Chinook salmon, coho salmon, winter steelhead, and summer steelhead to support commercial and recreational fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River and in the Sandy River. The cover letter requests NMFS approval of the HGMPs under limit 5 of the 4(d) rule for threatened salmon and steelhead.

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Acknowledge the receipt of your HGMPs,
2. Advise the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) of whether the submitted plans and supporting material represent sufficient information to begin our formal evaluation, and
3. Identify next steps.

NMFS generally believes hatcheries can be managed in a manner that is consistent with or that promotes the conservation of salmon and steelhead listed under the ESA. The 4(d) rule provides a way to permit the "take" of ESA-listed fish for a variety of hatchery purposes. For an HGMP to be approved, it must adequately address the following 4(d) rule criteria (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000):

1. State goals, performance objectives, and performance indicators that indicate the purpose of the program, its intended results, and measurements for its performance in meeting those results.
2. Utilize the concepts of "viable" and "critical" salmonid population thresholds, consistent with the concepts contained in the technical document entitled "Viable Salmonid Populations."
3. Take into account the health, abundances, and trends in the donor population.

4. Include protocols to address fish health, broodstock collection, broodstock spawning, rearing, and release of juveniles, deposition of hatchery adults, and catastrophic risk management.
5. Evaluate, minimize and account for the propagation program's genetic and ecological effects on natural populations including disease transfer, competition, predation, and genetic introgression caused by the straying of hatchery fish.
6. Describe interrelationships and interdependencies with fisheries management.
7. Ensure adequate artificial propagation facilities to properly rear the progeny of artificially spawned broodstock, to maintain population health and diversity, and avoid hatchery-influenced selection or domestication.
8. Include adequate monitoring and evaluation to assess compliance of the program with the HGMP(s) and to detect and evaluate the success of the hatchery program and any risks potentially impairing the recovery of any ESA-listed ESU or DPS.
9. Provide for evaluating monitoring data and making any revisions of assumptions, management strategies, or objectives that data show are needed.

Table 1. Hatchery programs releasing salmon and steelhead into the Sandy River subbasin, annual production goals, and facilities used.

Hatchery Program	Annual Production Goal	Rearing Facilities
Sandy River Spring Chinook Salmon	132,000 smolts (in the future the total number released annually will be based on evaluation of stray reduction measures and achievement of goals for pHOS in the basin).	Sandy Hatchery, and Upper Sandy River weirs – adult collection Clackamas Hatchery – spawning, incubation to eyed egg Oxbow Hatchery – hatching and early rearing to 80 fish per pound (fpp) Cascade Hatchery – rearing to 18 fpp Sandy Hatchery – rearing to 12 fpp Bull Run Acclimation – 10 fpp
Sandy River Coho Salmon	500,000 smolts	Sandy Hatchery – adult collection, spawning, incubation, rearing, acclimation and release of 300,000 smolts at 15 fpp. CCF Net Pens – 200,000 smolts transferred in February at 18 fpp for acclimation and release into the lower Columbia River.
Sandy River Winter Steelhead	160,000 smolts	Sandy Hatchery – adult collection, spawning, and incubation Oak Springs Hatchery – hatching and rearing to 30fpp Bonneville Hatchery – rearing to 6fpp Sandy Hatchery – acclimation and release
Sandy River Summer Steelhead	75,000 smolts	South Santiam Hatchery – adult collection, spawning, incubation to eyed egg Bonneville Hatchery – hatching and rearing (75,000) Sandy Hatchery – acclimation and release

To approve an HGMP, NMFS must determine that the submitted HGMP addresses these criteria, including its monitoring measures and processes for implementation. NMFS will also determine whether the proposed action would appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of salmon and steelhead species listed under the ESA.

Purpose and Goals for the Action

The overall objective of the four hatchery programs is to release salmon and steelhead into the lower Sandy River at Cedar Creek (below the former Marmot Dam site), and from an acclimation pond in the lower Bull Run River (spring Chinook salmon) to provide fish for commercial and recreational fisheries in the Columbia and Sandy Rivers.

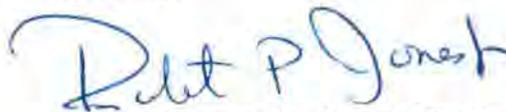
Sufficiency of Submitted Information

As your transmittal letter indicates, NMFS had an opportunity to review the HGMPs prior to your submittal, and we appreciate your timely response to our comments. Based on our review of your HGMPs in light of the criteria listed above, NMFS finds the HGMPs contain sufficient information to proceed with our formal review process.

We will now publish notice in the Federal Register of the availability of your HGMPs for public review and comment. At the conclusion of the public comment period, we will provide to you any comments received for your response as appropriate. After public comments have been considered, we will proceed with our analysis. We will be preparing documents pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which will also be made available for public review and comment. In addition, to comply with section 7 of the ESA, NMFS has re-initiated formal consultation with itself regarding the effects of the HGMPs on ESA-listed species; this re-initiation of consultation is pertinent because of the scope of the changes to the plans currently in place. We have generated a schedule for completing our review, which has been shared with you and your staff. We will continue to update the schedule and keep you informed regarding the progress of our review and any additional information we may need to complete that review.

If NMFS has correctly characterized the proposed action and the HGMPs, then we consider the application package sufficient to begin processing of the application. Therefore, please notify us as to whether this letter accurately characterizes the proposed action. We look forward to working with you and your staff in the future. The NMFS point of contact for this action is Rich Turner, who can be reached at (503) 736-4737.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Jones, Jr., Branch Chief
Anadromous Production and Inland Fisheries Program
Sustainable Fisheries Division

cc: Scott Patterson, ODFW
Todd Alsbury, ODFW
James Dixon, NMFS