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January 3, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Maureen Hess and Mark Fritsch

SUBJECT: Update on Informal Hatchery Group meeting

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Maureen Hess and Mark Fritsch

Summary: Council staff will update the Committee on the Informal Hatchery Workgroup (IHW)¹ meeting that will occur on Monday, January 8, 2024. The meeting is intended to present efforts by Council staff over the past two years to address the latest task prioritized by the workgroup regarding the Council's [hatchery website](#) and Program Tracker hatchery tool - to be more robust and inclusive of other hatchery programs throughout the basin. After a review and comment period by the IHW, Council staff will return to the Council and provide an update and overview of the hatchery website and the other resource tools and maps (i.e., screens and lands). In addition, the Program Tracker hatchery tool will be used as a resource for the Council's Program Performance effort.

Relevance: The Council, in partnership with the Informal Hatchery Workgroup (IHW), developed a hatchery website and made updates to the associated Program Tracker hatchery tool to provide hatchery information at various levels and is intended for multiple audiences (e.g., general public,

¹ The workgroup has not been formalized by the Council through a charter. It operates informally by a mission statement as developed by the fish and wildlife managers and other participants in 2019.

technical, policy). These resource tools are identified in the 2020 Addendum to the Program as reporting tools for communicating information and progress toward the Program's goals and objectives and assist in reporting on program performance.

This work also supports implementation of emerging priorities of the Program, including long-term O&M of Program assets (i.e., fish hatcheries). Additionally, this work addresses the 2014 Program's public engagement strategy (Part Three.IV.C.8) by facilitating public access to Program information and conveying the Program's accomplishments. More broadly, the Workgroup efforts to communicate the critical role that hatcheries play in the Basin also addresses an information and data availability need that has been identified over the past three decades (e.g., as noted in [2011 RME & AP Category Review](#), [Research Review](#), ISRP reviews - [2010-44A](#) and [2018-8](#), and Regional Coordination Forum meetings - [February](#) and [August](#) 2019).

Workplan: Fish and Wildlife Division; Program Implementation (2014 Program and 2020 Addendum); Program Performance, and other Program implementation.

Background: The Informal Hatchery Workgroup, currently hosted by Council member Ed Schriever, has met nine times since mid-2019. The workgroup includes representatives from the States, Tribes, and Federal management agencies as well representatives from utilities, non-profit, and data management organizations. In 2019, the workgroup developed a mission statement committed to supporting a common vision for the Columbia River Basin that supports abundant, healthy wild fish and effective resident and anadromous fish hatcheries. As part of its mission statement, the workgroup prioritized the need for better communication to the public, researchers, managers, and decision-makers, emphasizing the critical role that hatcheries play in mitigation and conservation in the Columbia River Basin.

The Council, in partnership with the workgroup, published a website in 2021 about the region's hatcheries, their historical beginnings, how science has informed and continues to inform their evolution, and the status of hatcheries throughout the Columbia River Basin. The site provides clear, engaging information to a general audience with links to more detailed, technical information that is currently in development. The goal is to make key information easily available and understandable to all users through bold data points in visual graphics, combined with simple stories that provide background information and context.

An important component of the hatchery website is the "Data" section and its connection to the [Council's Resource Tools and Maps](#) - Program

Tracker hatchery tool. The Program Tracker hatchery tool was initially developed to present information on the hatchery facilities and programs associated with the Council's Program, to track facility improvement needs, and access other information such as the Council's master planning documents. Efforts to expand and restructure the Program Tracker hatchery tool have occurred over the last two years to better align it with the more comprehensive basin-wide structure of the hatchery website (i.e., inclusive of other hatchery mitigation programs throughout the basin). This organizational structure allows understanding a Program's mitigation responsibility of hatchery facilities and production programs. Specifically, the tool was expanded to include all the Basin's hatchery facilities and connect each facility with its specific mitigation purpose (i.e., development impacts and construction/operation of dams). The tool was also expanded to include information on hatchery production programs that are linked to the facilities, identifying the mitigation purpose for each program, management objectives, and other program-specific information. With the organizational structure of this tool completed, staff are now working to compile and incorporate hatchery data (e.g., number of releases over time) associated with the Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

Council staff, in collaboration with hatchery managers and the IHG, continue to adapt the Program Tracker hatchery tool to align with the goals of the IHG to tell the story of fish hatcheries in the basin, while working to develop the tool to be used as a resource in the Council's Program Performance efforts.

More Info:

[Informal Hatchery Workgroup Mission Statement](#)

[Hatchery Website](#)

[Past meeting information](#)

Update on Informal Hatchery Workgroup meeting

January 9, 2024



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

Agenda – Informal Hatchery Workgroup, January 8, 2024

1:00 PM (PDT)	Welcome and Introductions
1:15 PM - 3:00 PM	
	1. Informal Hatchery Workgroup - Background and Progress
	2. Brief review of the Workgroup's Hatchery Website
	3. Update - Program Tracker Hatchery Tool (<i>draft</i>)
	4. Next steps and Discussion
	5. Update - Program Tracker Hatchery Tool as a resource for the Council's Program Performance effort

Workgroup progress

Informal Hatchery Workgroup

Meetings

- [February 2022](#)
- [September 2021](#)
- [May 2021](#)
- [December 2020](#)
- [September 2020](#)
- [March 2020](#) (DRAFT Story Map)
- [October 2019](#)
- [June 2019](#) (development of mission statement)
- [May 2019](#)

- 2019: Informal Hatchery Workgroup formed, developed [Mission Statement](#).
 - Focus on importance and success of artificial program activities in meeting mitigation and conservation objectives in the Columbia River Basin.
- 2020-2022: Developed website with story maps and handouts (Communication tool)
- Current: Hatchery information and data compilation (Tracking and reporting tool)

Update on hatchery information and data compilation

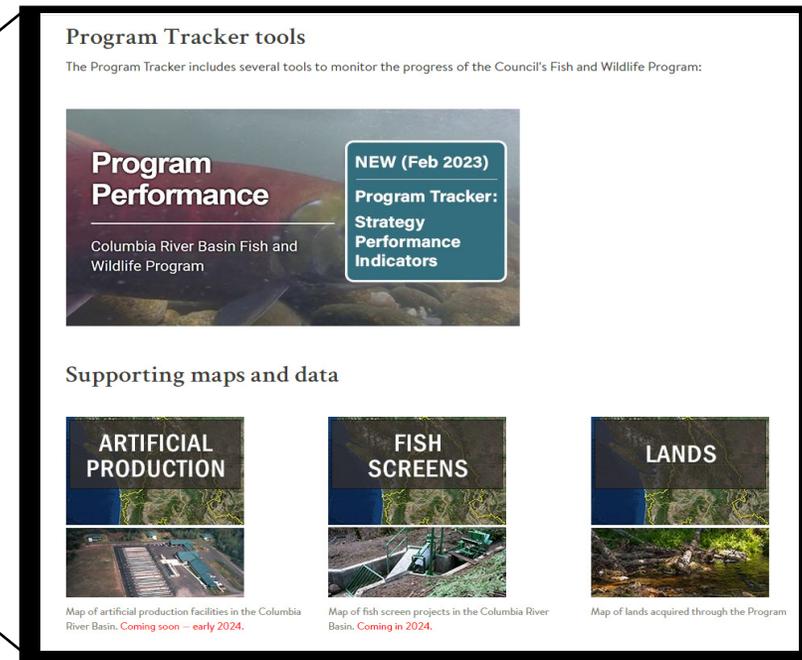
Refinement of Tools – Program Tools

IHWG's [Hatchery Website](#)



- Tool for **communicating** information on hatcheries broadly

Council's resource tools and maps ([Program Tracker](#))



- Tools for **tracking and reporting** FW Program information and performance
(Goals, Objectives and Indicators)

Program Tracker – Hatchery tool

- Mapping tool developed to present information on the F&W Program's AP:
 - Asset management documents
 - Council and master planning documents
- Included most other AP facilities throughout the basin

Why expand tool and restructure?:

- Comprehensive tool for CRB-wide
- Align with organizational structure outlined by story maps (i.e., mitigation program)
 - Understand purpose of facilities and programs
 - Foundation for initiating staff work on Program Performance; Category assessment - AP



Next Steps

- Gathering manager & workgroup feedback and edits to the hatchery tool.
- Complete compiling data for F&WP hatchery releases over time.
- Anticipated timeline to adding the tool to the Council's website = March.
- Update and preview of the Council's resource tools and maps (hatcheries, screens, & lands) at the March Committee meeting.