

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

DRAFT CO-MANAGER HATCHERY POLICY

Comment period end date: March 1, 2023

Ken Warheit

(kenneth.warheit@dfw.wa.gov)

March 2, 2023

See attachments for comments from:

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (Page 101)

Trout Unlimited (Page 107)

Joint Organizational (Page 113)

Name: **Daniel Clark**

Email Address: **Topturd@comcast.net**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/8/2023 12:33:00 AM**

Comment:

Great Idea! Should just let the tribes manage the Salmon and Steelhead. The only reason we have a quality fall salmon fishery on the Columbia River is because of the tribes programs. Oregon and Washington particularly Oregon continue to jeopardize that fishery by allowing basically unlimited number of guides on the Columbia River estuary during the fall season. Upriver sportsman were and continue to be short changed with fishery due to poor management by Oregon. So vest to let the tribes do it.

Name: **Edward Rogge**

Email Address: eddie.rogge@yahoo.com

Postal Address: **Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/8/2023 1:36:00 AM**

Comment:

Greetings-

I am glad to see that the hatchery plan acknowledges that the natural habitat will not support a healthy wild fish population and the hatchery are necessary to keep sustainable populations.

I would like to see the Skagit Steelhead hatchery program reintroduced with native Skagit Steelhead. This would be a huge supplement to the struggling wild population.

Thanks for listening!

Eddie Rogge

Name: **darin paul**

Email Address: **darin367@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Skokomish, WA 98584, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/8/2023 2:55:00 AM**

Comment:

Doesn't matter what WDFW or the public think or want. The tribes will dictate policy and catch limits to the state. Our so called partnership is 80/20 at best!

Name: **Warren Hazen**

Email Address: **warrenhazen@gmail.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/8/2023 5:45:00 PM**

Comment:

We need to start raising bigger strains of salmon and steelhead in our hatchery. I'm talking about raising strains of 25 to 40 pound chinooks, 8- 12 pound Coho, 8 to 12 pound steelhead. Raise half the amount of hatchery fish in our hatcheries in the state of Washington, but raise bigger strains of hatchery fish. Right now, Washington Fish And Wildlife are raising salmon and steelhead that are lethargic. They are terrible biters they are nonaggressive feeders . Our hatchery fish are small, thin, lazy salmon and steelhead. So for your new hatchery management plan, instead of raising millions of salmon and steelhead in the state of Washington raise half the amount of fish and raise bigger, stronger fish in the hatchery. This would help out with our natural fish surviving as Smoltz. They would not have so much competition from hatchery Smoltz. The fish you are raising in your hatcheries are turning people off from fishing for them.

Name: **Isaac Fu**

Email Address: **incorporation@juno.com**

Postal Address: **Kent, WA 98031, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/8/2023 9:22:00 PM**

Comment:

I'll comment as I have been for years but it seems to always fall on deaf ears. Please replace the requirement of random mating with a new requirement to mate only the largest and healthiest fish in each year class. The requirement for random mating is going against Natural selection and has put Hatchery fish at a significant genetic disadvantage over the years. Mating only the largest and best in each year class will effectively improve all Fisheries across Washington without hardly any increase in cost. Stop the requirement to mate "jacks". Do not mate the small fish in each year class just because they are easier to handle by the hatchery staff. This simple change will make the commission look very good over the years if implemented. It will also appease recreational fishermen and Commercial fishermen and native tribes alike. If the state would humble itself and observe the steelhead hatchery practices on the Salmon river they could learn quite a bit on how to raise fish. The natives there have a world class fishery while the state run hatchery rivers are shut down year after year. You cannot blame ocean conditions for that. You also cannot blame habitat if you observe the hatchery production numbers on the Green river in King county. The numbers there excel and much could be learned from observing what they are doing right.

Name: **NoName1**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/11/2023 4:10:55 AM**

Comment:

For what it's worth in the river's north of Seattle the hatchery steelhead production is almost zero, and none of the smaller rivers get planted at all. It has effected all the small communities, because they are not getting the fishermen spending money in them. Increase the hatchery production and everyone wins.

Name: **Jerry Holmes**
Email Address: jerry.holmes@comcast.net
Postal Address: **Bothell, WA 98011, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/13/2023 10:41:00 PM**

Comment:

I have reviewed the draft co-manager hatchery policy and have found it to be well thought out and complete. The only consideration for modification I might suggest is pertaining to the intention of the co-managers to communicate with and engage the stakeholders for the duration of their working together activities.

Name: **Jared**
Email Address: jared.greenwlc@gmail.com
Postal Address: **Elma, WA 98541, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/14/2023 7:57:00 PM**

Comment:

A coupe questions.
Will the tribal co managers be directly finically responsible for any hatchery productions or projects? Will the it continue to be on the backs of the tax payer to fund all the hatcheries?
For grays harbor and the chehalis river watershed in particular, will the tribes be responsible for ALL hatchery winter steelhead production since the tax paying recreational angler doesn't not have a legitimate shot at harvesting these fish? If the basin is closed to all fishing December-June for state recreational anglers, why are we footing the bill. Putting those fish in lakes in not a legitimate opportunity for these fish. Steelhead anglers want to fish in the river for steelhead. Everyone looks to have a seat at the table, except the largest user base of the resource...kind of feels unfair. The tribe needs to be directly funding the hatcheries if they are the only (and with salmon majority) beneficiaries of the hatchery program.
Also. Regarding hatcheries, we need a dramatic shift to the Wilson river model. Even in a stale run year...their rivers continue produce fishable numbers with barbed hooks, bait and fishing from a boat. Also with very low handling mortality in the 1-3% range (just as the Idaho study showed). It's been angler and guide driven for 25 years and is a steelhead success story.
If you want to let the tribes run the hatcheries, let them run them like the salmon river with big, healthy broodstock steelhead. Always open, always produces catchable number for 3 straight months.

Name: **rory calhoun**
Email Address: rdcsdc@yahoo.com
Postal Address: **pob 73374**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/14/2023 8:20:00 PM**

Comment:

Why don't you ramp up salmon and steelhead hatchery production 10 fold and produce more fish for everyone period. You all know how to do it. Face reality, not all wild stock can recover with the amount of habitat destruction and people that live in Washington now. The proof is you were going to raise more fish if it helped the whales against all your previous policies so you can't hide behind that logic any more. Look at the Olympic coast where very pristine habitats still exist and they aren't able to even support enough wild fish. I get the wild fish saving issue because I worked at RCO

and saw salmon recovery efforts came there. I understand fish grants and salmon money for projects but since I retired and fish a lot more I now think it's a losing battle. But isn't it time to be realistic and apply common sense to recreational, commercial and tribal fishing issues. There isn't a fisherman including tribal that can tell the difference of the kind of fish biting on the line, being tangled in a gill net and speared from a platform. They are all taken to eat if legal by recreational fishers, taken to be sold and traded and nobody turns down a hatchery stock fish and throws it back for a different one right? Guess what? They all taste the same when a salmon heads out to the big ocean for a few years and feeds and returns to place of origin. Hatcheries have been around a long time for a reason so let's update them supply them with what they need support and crank out the fish and produce what license buyer have paid for. Maybe tribes with all their casino money could add millions of dollars to the hatchery programs to support more fish production and clip at least 50% of their fish where there not clipping. I support raising more fish and if WDFW cant do it then have tribes do it. Thank you

Name: **Roger Jutte**

Email Address: knophish@hotmail.com

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/14/2023 8:25:00 PM**

Comment:

Let co-managers co-manage. Seems it's always one sided, whatever tribes want, they get. Anything to help sportsfishers is over ruled. I think hatcheries should increase their output but the seasons shouldn't be closed like this year. No fishing, early closures now we have surplus hatchery fish. Doesn't make sense to raise fish and not be able to harvest.

Name: **Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Steve Manlow**

Email Address: smanlow@lcfwb.gen.wa.us

Postal Address: **Vancouver, WA 98682, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/15/2023 7:35:00 PM**

Comment:

Please see the attached comments from the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board on the Draft Comanager Hatchery Policy. Thank you. (**SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT - Page 101**)

Name: **Therasa Cha**

Email Address: therasa.cha@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Sultan, WA 98294, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/16/2023 11:43:00 PM**

Comment:

I want to strongly encourage two key elements of the hatchery programs (1) deploying broodstocking as an effective and agreed upon form of hatchery management (2) simply commit to planting more fish in accordance with the population growths in the ecosystem.

In regards to (1) broodstock programs, a well designed broodstock program simulates wild fish by leveraging both the same genetics as what is in the local river system as well as pairing the like fish together (selecting the largest, strongest, brightest). While many argue this creates a "super fish" for anglers, in truth, its simply the same as what is done in nature where the fittest male fish fights to fertilize the largest females. While there are studies where genetics are altered when a wild fish genetic is raised in a hatchery environment the same studies show as soon as such a fish is wild again those genetics revert back. Leaning heavier into planting egg boxes in rivers can also solve this.

(2) in regards to increasing due to population and environmental pressure, the predation of pinapeds is at an all time high and wreaking havoc for both tribal and non-tribal fishing operations. Either there needs to be population control, or a commitment to increase fish as populations increase. Increasing makes sense because even regardless of pinapeds many animals we preserve (orcas, eagles) use this same ecosystem. I live on the river and saw my eagle population dwindle to nothing this winter due to the poor winter steelhead return on the skykomish river.

Name: **Dan Albrecht**

Email Address: **danalbrecht84@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98166, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/17/2023 5:09:00 AM**

Comment:

I urge you to recognize the benefit of the brood stock program. A robust brood stock hatchery program on every river would disperse the angling pressure and lessen the impact on wild fish in the few rivers that remain open. Also, the genetics are identical to those of the native fish in that river, bolstering the wild population instead of watering it down. The entire ecosystem depends on salmon and steelhead returning in good numbers, as we have screwed up the habitat and hurt the ability of wild fish to maintain healthy populations, it is our responsibility to reinforce their populations with hatchery production.

Name: **NoName2**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/17/2023 5:32:28 PM**

Comment:

It's ridiculous to plant hatchery steelhead and then tell us we can't fish for them why am I paying for that. And by the way you are so out of touch if you think putting Steelhead in a lake is opportunity to catch Steelhead idiots

Name: **Rick Murie**

Email Address: **rlmurie@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Vancouver, WA 98685, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/18/2023 7:25:00 PM**

Comment:

Tribal Co-management is welcomed. Unlike some other user and stakeholder groups, tribal members more broadly value salmon and steelhead resources, i.e. beyond economic measures and cross-resource impacts. Their view of these species as sacred is appreciated and critical to their continued existence and hoped for increasing abundance.

ALL hatchery produced salmon and steelhead must be clearly marked as such by adipose fin clip. Such marking, or other easily identified benign source marking is essential to accurate, fully detailed/informed management, of both hatchery and wild stocks. Thank you.

Name: **Todd Collecchi**

Email Address: **collecchitodd65@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **South Prairie, WA 98385, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/23/2023 11:00:00 PM**

Comment:

The Tribble comanagers are doing a wonderful job ensuring the future of the resource, but its heartbreaking to see how Washington State Residence are being locked out of boat launches and regulated off the Rivers while Tribble members are fishing them everyday, lower hood canal and the Green River are good examples, the Treaty's and the rights in them apply to everyone.

Name: **ERIC HEIKKILA**

Email Address: **esheikkila@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Aberdeen, WA 98520, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:11:00 AM**

Comment:

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Name: **Andy McFarlane**

Email Address: **andymc311@aol.com**

Postal Address: **Langley, WA 98260, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:13:00 AM**

Comment:

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world

Name: **Donovan Gladstone**

Email Address: Donovan.Gladstone@gaf.com

Postal Address: **Gig Harbor, WA 98335, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:13:00 AM**

Comment:

Please not only direct more tax payer dollars and support Washington State and PNW fish hatcheries but create more fish hatcheries!

Name: **John Keizer**

Email Address: **saltpatrol3@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Roy, WA 98580, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:14:00 AM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that

Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

The policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624.

Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

Name: **Reid Withrow**

Email Address: **arw1357@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Tacoma, WA 98445, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:15:00 AM**

Comment:

We need hatchery fish

Name: **Alan Jutte**

Email Address: **ajutte@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Edmonds, WA 98026, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:17:00 AM**

Comment:

Hatcheries are absolutely crucial in maintaining/enhance of this beautiful place we are fortunate enough to call home. Without hatcheries, we will lose our salmon fishery entirely. Unfortunately, our natural habitat is only going to get worse before it gets better. We have no choice but to increase function/support for our hatcheries, lest we lose our beautiful resource entirely.

Name: **Butch Smith**

Email Address: **coho@willapabay.org**

Postal Address: **Ilwaco, WA 98624, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:18:00 AM**

Comment:

This policy is a longtime coming I agree with the new co management hatchery policy

Name: **Gary Darnell**

Email Address: **Grdarnell@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Lynnwood, WA 98087, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:21:00 AM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

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Language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might "supersede" Commission Policy C-3624.

Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.

This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **ThomasThom Melton**

Email Address: ts.melton@comcast.net

Postal Address: **Bellevue, WA 98005, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:23:00 AM**

Comment:

We need hatcheries now more than ever. Note only for the orcas but for the economy. Washington State could be a mecca for recreational fishing. Broodstock programs would keep the wild genetics alive in the rivers. If we don't have hatcheries we simply won't have fish.

Name: **Brad Ridgeway**

Email Address: fishnbrad@yahoo.com

Postal Address: **Newcastle, WA 98059, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:26:00 AM**

Comment:

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Lawrence Hunt**

Email Address: **triplefish@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Oak Harbor, WA 98277, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:31:00 AM**

Comment:

- This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs. We all are fighting for fisheries, for our kids and grandkids. Everyone will benefit from this program.

Name: **John C. O'Neill**

Email Address: **jco3d@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Lacey, WA 98503, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:38:00 AM**

Comment:

Hatcheru and Wild COEXIST !

Name: **Gary Johnson**

Email Address: **lk2thlite@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Oak Harbor, WA 98277, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:42:00 AM**

Comment:

I support Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead hatchery policy C-3624 along with Co-Managers.; I support C-3624 with Co-Managers

Name: **Bradford Haines**

Email Address: Bradford.haines@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Woodinville, WA 98072, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:48:00 AM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Name: **Kevin Bedlington**

Email Address: kevin.bedlington@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Bellingham, WA 98226, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:50:00 AM**

Comment:

Please adopt the Joint Policy Agreement for the Management of Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries Between Treaty Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. I fully support this document.

Name: **Brian Love**

Email Address: Drbrianlove@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Brush Prairie, WA 98606, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:59:00 AM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

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Name: **Tim Koehler**

Email Address: tkoehler71@gmail.com

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:09:00 AM**

Comment:

It's important to stay on track. For our salmon recovery programs and to re-energize our salmon hatchery programs. Please support these efforts . In addition to theses.
Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Name: **Darwin Stevenson**
Email Address: dar.stevenson@rocketmail.com
Postal Address: **Oak Harbor, WA 98277, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:15:00 AM**

Comment:

Bring back the hatchery fish so the sports fishermen can actually get a season, and the other thing you have to be aware of I said many years ago to a friend when you started cutting back on hatcheries and fish released that they would be reopening when the orcas start starving (that became reality) I'm a lifelong outdoorsmen and I have to say in the most gentle of terms the orcas dying is all on you.

Name: **Matt Smith**
Email Address: fishgodmatt@gmail.com
Postal Address: **Centralia, WA 98531, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:16:00 AM**

Comment:

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Name: **Donald Lockner**
Email Address: d.lockner@comcast.net
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:22:00 AM**

Comment:

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Name: **Larry Litten**
Email Address: llitten@wilburellis.com
Postal Address: **Woodinville, WA 98077, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:32:00 AM**

Comment:

Please vote to save our hatcheries!! Implement and follow the "Joint Policy Agreement for the Management of Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries Between Treaty Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife". It is crucial for both saving the Orcas and having salmon for you kids and grandkids to catch and enjoy. Thank You.....Larry

Name: **Howard Kauffman**
Email Address: **linestripper@wavecable.com**
Postal Address: **Port Orchard, WA 98367, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:38:00 AM**

Comment:

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Name: **scott b douglas**
Email Address: **scott2694@gmail.com**
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:02:00 AM**

Comment:

I am in full support of policy C-3624. We need more hatchery production for many reasons and this plan is scientifically based to have minimal affect on any wild stocks that could be present in the river system. I am asking for your full support on this as well.

Name: **Stanley Prescott**
Email Address: **Prescottstan@comcast.net**
Postal Address: **Covington, WA 98042, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:07:00 AM**

Comment:

Implementing the "Joint Policy Agreement for the Management of Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries Between Treaty Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife" is a must do to keep our fisheries. I urge you to approve this policy.

Name: **Edward Mulvihill**
Email Address: **edmul18@aol.com**
Postal Address: **Black Diamond, WA 98010, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:11:00 AM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These

biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers. Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624. Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits. Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive. This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs. It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a “natural population” entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are “natural origin” with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter. With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Russ Carpenter**

Email Address: **Carpe1977@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Olympia, WA 98501, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:25:00 AM**

Comment:

We need more fish for the southern resident Orca. Let’s move forward with the new policy.

Name: **Tim Bartholomew**

Email Address: **Tim@apexflooring.net**

Postal Address: **Enumclaw, WA 98022, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:36:00 AM**

Comment:

Please support our hatchery programs. They need to run at capacity to restore our salmon runs!!!

Name: **MIKE SILVERS**

Email Address: **SETTHEHOOK55@GMAIL.COM**

Postal Address: **Lacey, WA 98503, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:37:00 AM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can’t keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It’s sad that

Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Name: **Chip DiJulio**

Email Address: **chip@dijuliodisplays.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:41:00 AM**

Comment:

I agree, we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Name: **James York**

Email Address: **izzy537@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Longview, WA 98632, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:44:00 AM**

Comment:

Please increase all salmon & steelhead hatchery production state wide.

Thanks,

Gary

Name: **David Johnson**

Email Address: **davejohnson123@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Bellevue, WA 98004, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:50:00 AM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

1. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

2. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

3. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

4. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Further:

- Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.
 - Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624.
 - Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.
 - Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.
 - This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.
 - It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a “natural population” entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are “ natural origin” with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.
 - With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.
-

Name: **Dennis Mathison**

Email Address: **dixiedog6116@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Kennewick, WA 99336, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:56:00 AM**

Comment:

With the smart people working on all the issues to save the fish,whales and habitat why does the WDFW and state officials turn a blind eye to the issues? I have been a Washington resident and fisherman in this state for over 60 years and can't understand state officials don't support the outdoorsman in the state they were elected or appointed in? Please help us who live here in Washington.

Name: **Kim Deweese**

Email Address: **Kimdew@aol.com**

Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98146, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:13:00 AM**

Comment:

Blank in the comment field

Name: **Roland Dunatov**

Email Address: **c3454@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Issaquah, WA 98075, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:16:00 AM**

Comment:

If our local habitats can no longer support naturally spawning fish it is not the fault of hatcheries. Not every river system is capable of rebuilding natural stocks. It is clear we need both more native fish AND hatchery fish, but not every watershed has environmentally evolved equally, particularly with natural resource extraction, global shifts in weather, and human population encroachment. Hatchery production has been significantly reduced over the last 30 years, but can help mitigate watershed losses to increase returning populations of salmon. I thought the Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Yet we need more fish to feed/save the Orcas. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas with more returning fish. I have read that Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow 3rd parties to keep hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawning and hatchery fish. Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers. Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624. Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

Name: **tim shearer**

Email Address: **tnshearer@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Newcastle, WA 98059, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:55:00 AM**

Comment:

The last 30 years decline in salmon should speak for it self, we need full hatchery production with habitat improvements to solve this issue. I do not agree with this recovery only plan

Name: **HG Stocking**

Email Address: **budsox33@aol.com**

Postal Address: **Everett, WA 98203, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 7:03:00 AM**

Comment:

Hatcheries must be maintained to support our fishery resources.

Name: **Marc Nelson**

Email Address: **Marcnelson@me.com**

Postal Address: **Newcastle, WA 98056, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 11:19:00 AM**

Comment:

Please move this forward for our hatchery's

Name: **Craig Axelbaum**

Email Address: **axelsaxelbaum@yahoo.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 12:26:00 PM**

Comment:

I support the continued funding of all the hatcheries. Sincerely, Craig Axelbaum

; Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Other points you may use:

Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

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This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Richard Alfarone**

Email Address: Rick.alfarone@hotmail.com

Postal Address: **Poulsbo, WA 98370, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 12:41:00 PM**

Comment:

Last season is the first time I did not purchase a fishing license in this state due to the systematic defunding of the hatchery system, been a loyal customer for 57 yrs

Name: **roger urbaniak**

Email Address: urbaniakr@comcast.net
Postal Address: **Mercer Island, WA 98040, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 1:58:00 PM**

Comment:

Keep our fish coming back

Name: **Matthew Patton**
Email Address: matt@evergreenhvac.com
Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98168, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 2:03:00 PM**

Comment:

Please do everything possible to keep hatchery production at maximum capacity. Our orcas, economy & way of life can not survive the unnecessary bureaucracy of a third party. WDFW and Tribal managers have amazing biologist already.

Name: **Richard Southern**
Email Address: godoftherock@msn.com
Postal Address: **Spanaway, WA 98387, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 2:04:00 PM**

Comment:

This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a “natural population” entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are “natural origin” with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

Name: **Frank Bergstrom**
Email Address: Fbergstrom@comcast.net
Postal Address: **Nordland, WA 98358, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 2:08:00 PM**

Comment:

Blank in the comment field

Name: **Tim McMaster**
Email Address: mcmaster.tim281@gmail.com
Postal Address: **Mount Vernon, WA 98273, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 2:23:00 PM**

Comment:

It seems simple hatcheries provide fish for everyone including orcas. Happy fishermen and happy whales.

Name: **Fred Kishida**

Email Address: fkishida@comcast.net

Postal Address: **Kent, WA 98031, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 2:25:00 PM**

Comment:

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Name: **steve reiter**

Email Address: steve.reiter411@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Everett, WA 98208, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 2:29:00 PM**

Comment:

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

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Please support WDFW Commission policy C-3624.

Thank you for your consideration

Regards

Steve Reiter

Name: **Casey Stump**

Email Address: casey_stump@hotmail.com

Postal Address: **Wenatchee, WA 98802, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 2:59:00 PM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Name: **Gary Vulgamore**
Email Address: **gvulgamore@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98178, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 2:59:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

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We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Name: **DAVID REESE**
Email Address: **PISCADO@HOTMAIL.COM**
Postal Address: **Woodinville, WA 98072, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:04:00 PM**

Comment:

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

Name: **Earl Salvey**
Email Address: **esalvey@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Vancouver, WA 98685, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:08:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

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With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Larry Olson**

Email Address: **Lmo6466@aol.com**

Postal Address: **Covington, WA 98042, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:11:00 PM**

Comment:

Our hatcheries are critical for our and children’s future please have experts handle this future situation!!

Larry olson

Name: **Bruce Mack**

Email Address: **brucemack2013@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Snohomish, WA 98290, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:12:00 PM**

Comment:

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Name: **Gary Bee**

Email Address: **nshore@nwlinc.com**

Postal Address: **Monroe, WA 98272, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:12:00 PM**

Comment:

1. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.
 2. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.
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-

Name: **NoName3**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:15:59 PM**

Comment:

We need this policy to move forward to increase hatchery production. This is vital.

Name: **Dan Hendricks**

Email Address: **hookemdano47@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Snohomish, WA 98290, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:31:00 PM**

Comment:

This Joint Co-Manager policy has a very important part as it does not allow a third party to get involved over the top of the tribal and state salmon fisheries, as was done with HSRG. This is very important! The WDFW commission needs to vote to move forward on the new policy. The anti-hatchery people are going to come out in force against this policy to try to stop it.

Name: **Joel Postma**

Email Address: **Postmaja@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Tacoma, WA 98467, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:40:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

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We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Name: **Catherine Wilson**

Email Address: **c_jwilson@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:43:00 PM**

Comment:

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Name: **William Woods**

Email Address: **Wowoody1@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Everett, WA 98208, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:52:00 PM**

Comment:

I'm a firm believer in our hatcheries , they are our gardens

Name: **sam lain**

Email Address: **sandslain@nwi.net**

Postal Address: **Chelan, WA 98816, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:54:00 PM**

Comment:

Do you have to save our hatcheries or there will be no fish in the future

Name: **sam lain**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:55:43 PM**

Comment:

Do you have to save our hatcheries or there will be no fish in the future

Name: **Ralph Zaleck**

Email Address: **Rszaleck@gmail.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:56:00 PM**

Comment:

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Name: **Chad Christensen**

Email Address: **cchristensen1931@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Snohomish, WA 98290, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 3:58:00 PM**

Comment:

At age 53 I have fished up and down the west coast to include Canada. Our salmon reduction in the hatcheries is being felt by anglers. If we feel it than the Orcas feel it. How is it that Canada (Mootcha Bay) has a number of hatcheries for the anglers, tribal and the sea life and the fishery is strong each year: We need to work together and not just for one said group for strong and health fishery. We can accomplish this by working together and allowing a 3rd party.

Name: **Bob Closj**

Email Address: clos.bob@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Friday Harbor, WA 98250, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:02:00 PM**

Comment:

Please pass WSF Joint Manager Policy. Thanks

Name: **Scott Fowler**

Email Address: flounder@nwlinc.com

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:04:00 PM**

Comment:

Hatcheries are a need resource our state needs to enhance. The sports people need fish.

Name: **wayne schiffner**

Email Address: **wayne11794@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Ferndale, WA 98248, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:09:00 PM**

Comment:

more hatcheries

Name: **David C. Morgan**

Email Address: pdcmorgan@gmail.com

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:13:00 PM**

Comment:

Increase hatchery salmon production.

Washington state “should” be the hatchery flagship of the world.

Name: **Bruce Harrison**

Email Address: **bh2688@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98155, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:17:00 PM**

Comment:

Yes, we need to do all we can to keep all the hatcheries on line to save the orca’s.

Name: **ERNIE HOLT**

Email Address: **HAGGARDSCOVE@DONOBI.NET**

Postal Address: **Ephrata, WA 98823, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:18:00 PM**

Comment:

1. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can’t keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.
2. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It’s sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.
3. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.
4. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.
 - Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.
 - Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624.
 - Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.
 - Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.
 - This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

- It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a “natural population” entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are “ natural origin” with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.
 - With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.
-

Name: **Shain Heuer**

Email Address: **shainheuer@outlook.com**

Postal Address: **Kingston, WA 98346, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:18:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

1. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.
2. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.
3. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.
4. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Other points you may use:

- Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.
 - Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624.
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 - With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.
-

Name: **William Long**
Email Address: **lottchenlong@gmail.com**
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:27:00 PM**

Comment:

Approve the Co-manager policy

Name: **Niels Vonmichalofski**
Email Address: **Nielski2@comcast.net**
Postal Address: **Maple Valley, WA 98038, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:34:00 PM**

Comment:

Please do whatever is necessary to improve fishing in Washington,our creeks and streams used to be full of fish,every thing has been ruined.It makes me sad and angry.Niels

Name: **Ian McCauley**
Email Address: **ianwilmc@aol.com**
Postal Address: **Ferndale, WA 98248, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:43:00 PM**

Comment:

We need to produce more hatchery fish to reduce stress on the wild spawning stocks preserving both for future generations to enjoy. This will provide much needed food for the Southern resident Orcas while preserving the great economic benefit salmon fishing brings for all residents of the PNW.

Name: **Rob Byrd**
Email Address: **rbyrd@farmersagent.com**
Postal Address: **Bothell, WA 98012, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:50:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward to get to the next step of SEPA review process. Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624.

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It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a “natural population” entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are “ natural origin” with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Zack Byrd**

Email Address: **robbyrd@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Bothell, WA 98012, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:53:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward to get to the next step of SEPA review process. Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

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With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Casey Willis**

Email Address: **youwillfindcasey@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Woodinville, WA 98072, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:55:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward with Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy (C-3624).

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It’s sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Best,
Casey

Name: **Mike Bannon.**

Email Address: **mikerbannon@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Allyn, WA 98524, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 4:59:00 PM**

Comment:

Hatcheries are a vital part of recreational fishing & very useful tool in managing our Salmon and Steelhead resources. They should be not be blamed for the loss of habitat nor inability to control the sea lion population which is a big of factor as any.

Name: **Tim Schwarze**

Email Address: **Jeschwar@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Camano, WA 98282, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:03:00 PM**

Comment:

Having lived a bunch of my life overseas seeing utter destruction of the environment for various political and profitable purposes, I would like to see us Americans come together. I have seen each of the various groups with utter disdain for the other. The reason for the disdain is understandable but the response is more of the same.

I have fished rivers in Skagit and Snohomish counties along side Russians, Ukrainians, Ethiopians, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Filipinos, Comoros, Japanese, Koreans, Brits, Iraqis, Thais, one from Trinidad-Tobago and all groups from Europe. And ironically every single one of these peoples have said something extremely negative about First Nations people. Why is that? My friend from Ethiopia has never ever even met a First Nation person. And I would venture to say neither has any of the other. It is because our current practice in the rivers is unjust.

It is now time and way past time to change our ways. We are all Americans. We all live here. We all love fish and enjoy fishing.

I am not denying that some people generations ago did something bad to someone else then. But that has been done throughout the history of the world to every people group.

I have seen a First Nation individual pull 2 kings out of a net, hold them up, kill them and throw them in the water. An in your face moment of I can and will do whatever I want.

But this is now. It does no good to "makeup " for someone else's failures generations ago. And treaties only last for a while. The Medes and the Persians no longer have a treaty. Neither do the Egyptians with the Babylonians.

My point is today we are all Americans.

Enough of politics.

Enough of favoritism.

Enough of legal revenge discriminatory behavior.

It is time to do what is most important for the fish.

Not for any one people group.

But for the fish.

And nature.

And the environment.

It's time for a change. For all of us to have an equal voice. For us to be heard.

We are all people. Humans. We bleed the same blood, cry the same tears and smile the same big smile when we say "fish on".

Carry on!

Name: **Maris Skuja**

Email Address: m.skuja@comcast.net

Postal Address: **Woodinville, WA 98072, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:08:00 PM**

Comment:

We need more hatchery output !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name: **Brett Stoffel**

Email Address: brett.stoffel@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Monitor, WA 98836, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:10:00 PM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the money if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners AND hatchery fish. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for...i.e. both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Name: **LeRoy John Bell**

Email Address: **Ljb2043@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Tacoma, WA 98407, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:10:00 PM**

Comment:

Hatchery projects are very important and must be sustain, sustained, and should be added on to you. We are way behind. We have to keep up with losing have a chat habitat workers do not eat orcas do not eat little fish.

Name: **J. C.**

Email Address: **jc7655@aol.com**

Postal Address: **Camas, WA 98607, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:12:00 PM**

Comment:

Keep the hatcheries open and fund more! Get the commercials off the Columbia river.

Name: **Bill Satterthwaite**

Email Address: **bills@cdkconstruction.com**

Postal Address: **Snoqualmie, WA 98065, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:33:00 PM**

Comment:

Properly managed fish hatcheries need to be a part of the solution for saving our fisheries moving forward to augment the efforts of the native waterway system as we rebuild it to what it should be and was.

Name: **wayne wood**

Email Address: **woodw1874@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Camas, WA 98607, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:34:00 PM**

Comment:

keep the hatcheries open and get the gillnets off the rivers

Name: **Brent Knight**

Email Address: bknight@intuitivesafetysolutions.com

Postal Address: **Edmonds, WA 98026, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:38:00 PM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish. Need proof, look at the programs in Alaska, B.C., and Oregon and learn from them. Unfortunately, our salmon and steelhead are threatened by many issues, politics being of significant concern.

Name: **Jay Curry**

Email Address: jandacurry@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:41:00 PM**

Comment:

I am For this policy.; This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **David Siegrist**

Email Address: dave.siegrist@comcast.net

Postal Address: **Newcastle, WA 98059, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:47:00 PM**

Comment:

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Name: **Steve Strong**

Email Address: steves@johnlscott.com

Postal Address: **Lake Stevens, WA 98258, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:49:00 PM**

Comment:

Please approve the Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy (C-3624). I have been involved with hatchery production for many years, I belong to the Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club, the Everett Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers. I am a past President and Current VP of the club and served on the Puget Sound Angler Board for several years. I have personally fin-clipped thousands of fish in the effort to support the life and ecosystem of Puget Sound and our local lakes. While we all want to see the Orca's thrive, protecting all the transient sea lions and seals, and non-native killer whales is a huge problem, and taking away our successful hatchery problems will just make matters much worse. Many of the fish we classify as 'wild' are actually fish that escaped getting fin clipped. I know from personal experience that about one out of every ten fish I fin-clipped escaped to be called 'wild salmon'. Hatchery production has been going on now for over a hundred years and must continue to support our fragile ecosystem. Thank you for reading this.

Name: **NoName4**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 5:54:16 PM**

Comment:

Quit cutting plants and stock the rivers! Steelhead and salmon both! Spread out the pressure! Give people options! I close every Puget Sound river at the end of December! Rediculous! This state blows for fishing now! Its not that difficult to figure out! Stock the damn rivers and leave them open long enough to catch some fish!!

Name: **DAVID RUMILL**

Email Address: **WATERBOY@WHIDBEY.COM**

Postal Address: **Greenbank, WA 98253, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:04:00 PM**

Comment:

I know it is important to increase the number of wild salmon but with the climate change and poor river environment it is also important to increase salmon hatchery production. Please support our recreational fisheries with additional hatchery fish so we can feed our families with healthy salmon.

Name: **anthony gort**

Email Address: **jagort1@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Port Angeles, WA 98362, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:18:00 PM**

Comment:

As a Salmon and Steelhead fisherman in the state of Washington for over 55 years. I support. The Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy C-3624. We need hatchery fish .

Name: **Robert Pefferman**

Email Address: **robertpefferman@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:21:00 PM**

Comment:

We need to protect hatchery production. Please move forward with the SEPA process. Thank you.

Name: **George Smith**

Email Address: **vwguy@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Everett, WA 98201, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:23:00 PM**

Comment:

To help save the orca's, we need to get rid of some seals and sea lions which would improve everything out there for the fisherman and the orchids.

Name: **Dave Miller**

Email Address: **4salebydavemiller@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Arlington, WA 98223, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:26:00 PM**

Comment:

WDFW,

We have come a long ways since the removal of HSRG and the outside influence managing our hatcheries that caused nothing but a disaster for salmon populations that effect not only the Orcas, but the the overall recreation sport fishing community and economics. This policy will help not only managing the hatchery production of salmon but the wild stock as well. Now we need to take the next step by moving the Co-Manager Policy forward. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish. The proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Again, please move forward with this. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name: **Jay Keen**

Email Address: **JAY.KEEN@YAHOO.COM**

Postal Address: **Newcastle, WA 98056, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:39:00 PM**

Comment:

As a person with well over 5000 hours on Puget Sound in various boating activities I feel it important that we continue the hatchery programs. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish. This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

Name: **Gerald Ulsund**
Email Address: **jerandsan1@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Hansville, WA 98340, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:39:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

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We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

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With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Tim Hicks**
Email Address: **elkhunt43@hotmail.com**
Postal Address: **Oak Harbor, WA 98277, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:41:00 PM**

Comment:

we need this. Make it happen!

Name: **Jim – THE REEL NEWS Publishing Editor Goerg**

Email Address: **thereelnewsjim@outlook.com**

Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98168, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:49:00 PM**

Comment:

On behalf of our 20-30,000 monthly readers, whom are all licensed anglers who's funds go into the general account to pay for fish & wildlife, (and most are licensed hunters also), we believe increased and enhanced hatchery product is necessary for the survival of our fisheries, endangered or not. It is absurd to believe that the wild fish activists' fight and lie to fulfill their own agenda, just as it is absurd that the rivers are still being gillnetted and killing endangered fish – a practice that has been widely banned elsewhere.

Name: **Bryan Monsaas**

Email Address: **captmidnight78@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Everett, WA 98203, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:57:00 PM**

Comment:

We must protect and utilize our hatcheries to produce fish for our and others, "Orcas" futures.

Name: **Douglas Milleer**

Email Address: **enginem@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Hansville, WA 98340, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:57:00 PM**

Comment:

I have reviewed Policy C-3624 and fully support the recommendations and urge adopting the policy. It is written in clear language and involves the major stakeholders in each hatchery district. This is in contrast to the Hatchery Scientific Review Group publication which I have also reviewed. That study is written in barely comprehensible language and does not involve management by local stake holders. While their theory may have some validity, it is more restrictive in hatchery production and specific implementation of individual hatcheries at the local level is lacking.

Name: **Thomas Elliott**

Email Address: **Tom.elliott.fish@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Tulalip, WA 98271, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 6:57:00 PM**

Comment:

Please pass the co management plan that we have already passes and move it forward to save our fish. Let's do what we already knows works.

Name: **John Baugher**
Email Address: **jpbaugher@msn.com**
Postal Address: **Vancouver, WA 98685, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 7:00:00 PM**

Comment:

Please do not allow 3rd party law suits override the policy directives provided by the co-managers (Tribes and WDFW). It is imperative to include habitat degradation as a key reason that positions taken by Wild Fish groups are unrealistic in their demands to reduce hatchery production.

Name: **Stephen McElfresh**
Email Address: **svmcelfresh@hotmail.com**
Postal Address: **Greenbank, WA 98253, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 7:00:00 PM**

Comment:

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Name: **Edward Elkin**
Email Address: **edelkin26@yahoo.com**
Postal Address: **Olympia, WA 98512, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 7:01:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward with greater hatchery production. It's good for all parties concerned.

Name: **Gary Ostlund**
Email Address: **gostlund@comcast.net**
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 7:16:00 PM**

Comment:

Keep the hatcheries.... even expand them while we all work to improve the natural fish environment. My children and grand children ar counting on you to do both. Thank you.

Name: **Reiner Graumann**
Email Address: **rgraumann@comcast.net**
Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98178, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 7:17:00 PM**

Comment:

Most anglers I know love to fish and also like to eat some of them. This way you will keep them buying there license and support the

Email Address: **mburklund53@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Hansville, WA 98340, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 7:40:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it. I agree with all of the statements below.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Name: **Jim Drake**
Email Address: **jim@promolab.com**
Postal Address: **Bothell, WA 98012, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 8:10:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

1. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.
 2. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.
 3. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.
 4. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.
-

Name: **Paul Chapman**
Email Address: **edchaphome@yahoo.com**
Postal Address: **Woodway, WA 98020, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 8:20:00 PM**

Comment:

I fully support C-3624 to make more fish and fully utilize our hatcheries for maximum production. Also work to eliminate the sea lions on the Columbia and seals in Puget Sound which have grown in huge numbers.

Name: **Wayne Palmer**
Email Address: **palmerw3@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Puyallup, WA 98375, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 8:22:00 PM**

Comment:

I support salmon hatcheries. I believe they are vital to the overall economy for the State of Washington. Please continue to fund, support and expand them.

Also:
The Joint Co-Manager policy has a very important part as it does not allow a third party to get involved over the top of the tribal and state salmon fisheries, as was done with HSRG. This is very important to me.
Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.
Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.
Please support the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.
Thank You

Name: **Grant Willman**
Email Address: **gwillman55@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Redmond, WA 98052, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 8:30:00 PM**

Comment:

Excellent policy, thank you for your efforts bringing everyone together!

Name: **Joseph Masterson**
Email Address: **Jmast5550@aol.com**
Postal Address: **Hansville, WA 98340, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 8:41:00 PM**

Comment:

This policy is essential to sustain a healthy salmon population. Given the declining natural environment it is not able to do so without the support of the hatchery system.

Name: **Thomas Allen**
Email Address: **allent@blkbrn.com**
Postal Address: **Bellingham, WA 98229, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 9:01:00 PM**

Comment:

Increase the hatchery numbers for the fisherman, the orcas and the fisheries in general

Name: **Douglas E Schwind**
Email Address: **dougs@nwdd.com**
Postal Address: **Mount Vernon, WA 98273, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 9:18:00 PM**

Comment:

1. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.
 2. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.
 3. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.
 4. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.
 - Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.
 - Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might "supersede" Commission Policy C-3624.
 - Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.
 - Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.
 - This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.
 - It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.
 - With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.
-

Name: **Charles Hulse**
Email Address: **hbbhomes@hotmail.com**
Postal Address: **Kirkland, WA 98034, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 9:20:00 PM**

Comment:

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Name: **Wayne Lampley**
Email Address: **wayneswa@yahoo.com**
Postal Address: **Anacortes, WA 98221, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 9:27:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward with this.

Name: **Eric Sather**
Email Address: **eric_sather@hotmail.com**
Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98115, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 9:28:00 PM**

Comment:

Please protect and increase our hatchery program to historic norms.

Blaming hatchery salmon for decrease in natural spawning salmon is wrong and deleterious to salmon recovery. We have decreased hatchery production significantly, and there is a direct correlation with the decline in hatchery production and the decline in health and population of the SRKW's. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Co-managers of the state and Tribes are outstanding and completely capable of managing the recovery process without the insertion of a third party. Interested parties that are not part of the "co-managers" should not be included or referred to in the language of the agreement. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA.

Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process.

Name: **Angela Cheyne**
Email Address: **Angelaine00@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Bothell, WA 98021, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 9:39:00 PM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Name: **Larry Brader**
Email Address: **Larry@thebraders.com**
Postal Address: **Home, WA 98349, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 9:47:00 PM**

Comment:

I am in favor of policy C Dash 3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It is very important to move forward with the hatchery policy.

Name: **Alan R. Williams DVM**

Email Address: **alanr_45@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Mount Vernon, WA 98273, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 9:51:00 PM**

Comment:

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Name: **Joel Janetski**

Email Address: **joel_janetski@byu.edu**

Postal Address: **Port Townsend, WA 98368, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 9:59:00 PM**

Comment:

Salmon populations continue to decline despite WDFW efforts to reverse this trend. It is clear that this trend follows critical decisions regarding pinniped protection and reduction in hatchery production of salmon and steelhead from the early 1920s onward. WDFW and NOAA need to see the larger picture that might be affecting this trend such as by-catch and commercial fishing generally. Without a will to change the trend in these fisheries by the WDFW and NOAA our salmon, and likely steelhead, will go the same path that salmon have traveled across the globe starting with northern Europe and eastern US and that is a downward spiral. This bill that appears to shore up hatchery production and recognizes, I hope, the critical role hatcheries played throughout much of the 20th century in retaining populations at some level. That over-fishing has played a huge role in the current state of affairs with Pacific issue is apparent in the overall decline of weight per fish harvested. We need change. Optimism stems from ongoing efforts to expand habitat with culvert removal on salmon spawning streams. Let's keep that going and combine it with an up tic in hatchery production of our precious salmonids.

Name: **Don Beyer**

Email Address: **beyer.don@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Bothell, WA 98021, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 10:13:00 PM**

Comment:

The following is submitted from an angler that is about to give up on any future Chinook salmon fishing in Puget Sound due to the severe decrease in angling opportunities coupled with any openings that have massive crowds with possible short term announcements of closures.

Save Our Hatcheries (With incorporation of Puget Sound Anglers' Comments)

Background of this commentator:

- Over 60 years of angling experience in streams and ocean from California to Alaska with 50 of those in Puget Sound

- Advanced Degrees in Fisheries Science and a career in marine/estuarine/riverine biology with multiple studies with species under the Endangered Species Act

- Retired

Several Stories (of many)

1. Steelhead fishing below the Hiram Chittenden locks up until sometime in the 1970's was a passive (plunking) fishery enjoyed by many (particularly old timers). Due to the decreases in fish numbers, the fishery was closed by the WDG, but with the promise that efforts would be made to enhance this fishery. Four decades later, still closed. Probable reason – massive urban development and habitat disruption in the watershed coupled with no apparent interest any more in hatcheries for steelhead. Many other similar situations exist in Puget Sound (and elsewhere),

2. In 1999, Chinook salmon were listed under the Endangered Species Act and many programs were initiated to try to restore this species in Puget Sound. At that time, several prominent WDFW biologists set out a goal to make Puget Sound the “Salmon Capitol of the World”. For Chinook, this has failed (at least for the “fishing” side of the equation (despite large surplus returns to many of the hatcheries). A season that once was all year is now down to just a few days that are often curtailed due to too many “encounters”. If the current trend continues, there will no longer be any Chinook angling in Puget Sound.

3. The comments below (from Puget Sound Anglers) describe one of the key problems (of many including hatchery closures, massive seal/sealion population increases, etc.). This key problem is that habitat improvements cannot keep up with habitat destruction. This destruction includes not only physical habitat (e.g., stream disruption, urban development, etc.) but also water quality (e.g., runoff of chemicals such as those found in tires that disrupt or kill adult coho spawners, accidental sewage discharges, etc. – the list is long). Most of these problems cannot be easily resolved, at least in the short term.

(In My Opinion)

Curtailing hatchery production is the wrong approach. Actually, with the number of surplus salmon to many hatcheries (e.g., George Adams Hatchery had a surplus of Chinook at about 34,000 in 2022, there should be some utilization of these surpluses. Recognizing that some groups strongly oppose this approach because of possible genetic problems, straying, etc., it should be recognized that during the last ice age, with glaciers/ice several thousand feet deep in the Puget Sound basin, there were likely no spawners in Puget Sound streams. However, as the ice melted, straying across the many streams allowed repopulation of the streams.

The question of genetics can be remedied by two means: 1) expand the remaining hatcheries to utilize the surpluses or 2) develop new hatcheries (e.g., the University of Washington had some very good runs of Chinook salmon before it was apparently closed down. This was just a pond created on the edge of the Lake Washington system).

Bottom Line:

Millions of dollars have been spent on trying to recover “native” populations of Chinook salmon in Puget Sound (and elsewhere). In general, these have failed (largely because habitat restoration cannot keep up with habitat losses). As such, the future of Chinook salmon angling in Puget Sound appears to be grim based on the severe decreases over the past several decades. The question is, will the “native” Chinook salmon populations get so low that hatcheries will be the only way to maintain any runs in the future and those would be needed to repopulate the remaining habitat. This would be the same situation as the Redfish Lake sockeye populations in Idaho that got down to only 1 adult male fish and hatcheries were used to reinvigorate this run.

Puget Sound Anglers' Comment:

“Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Other points you may use:

Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624.

Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.

This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a “natural population” entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are “ natural origin” with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.”

Name: **Fred Kaiser**

Email Address: **fskaiser@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Bellingham, WA 98225, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/24/2023 11:09:00 PM**

Comment:

It is imperative for us to continue and enhance our salmon hatcheries.

Name: **John nordeen**

Email Address: **jngofish@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Anacortes, WA 98221, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 12:02:00 AM**

Comment:

We need more hatchery salmon and steelhead production from tribal and state hatcheries. Hatchery production has been under attack from HSRG and WFC. Both of these groups have dramatically reduced salmon and steel head production.

More hatchery salmon production means more fish for all. Cooperation and coordination. Between WDFW and the tribes is vital to the very survival of salmon and the killer whales. Anti hatchery groups are misinformed and full of junk science. And other stuff. MORE HATCHERIES MEANS MORE FISH FOR ALL !

Name: **Brian Kobylk**
Email Address: **briankobylk@msn.com**
Postal Address: **Snohomish, WA 98296, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 1:10:00 AM**

Comment:

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Name: **James Hively**
Email Address: **jim@rivercitymusic.us**
Postal Address: **Battle Ground, WA 98604, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 1:41:00 AM**

Comment:

This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

Name: **Frank Urabeck**
Email Address: **Furabeck@comcast.net**
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 2:22:08 AM**

Comment:

I support the co-manager policy provided that it includes: 1) specific language committing department to stakeholder participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers, 2) an explanation and examples of what is intended by “co-manager policy might supersede Commission Policy C3624, 3) language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits and 4) a commitment to conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by state, tribes, and federal agencies for hatchery program management against current performance data that suggest the criteria has been overly restrictive. Very pleased to note that hatchery benefits given equal standing with hatchery risks. This long overdue.

Name: **Matthew Cullen**
Email Address: **mwcullen624@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 2:46:00 AM**

Comment:

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Name: **Les gilbert**
Email Address: **wintercreek75@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Monroe, WA 98272, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 2:56:00 AM**

Comment:

I urge you to support and implement the joint co-manager hatchery production in light of the declining habitat and the loss of salmon to support commercial, recreational and Orca survival. We need to do all we can to increase hatchery salmon. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: **Angela Miller**
Email Address: **missindy5030@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Arlington, WA 98223, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 3:35:00 AM**

Comment:

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas. This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Mike Haschak**
Email Address: **mikehaschak@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Anacortes, WA 98221, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 3:48:00 AM**

Comment:

Please save our hatchery salmon programs. And please open winter blackmouth fishing in area 7 again during the winter.

Name: **Rich Braun**
Email Address: rich.braun53@gmail.com
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 4:28:00 AM**

Comment:

WDFW needs to stop cow-towing to the likes of Wild Fish Conservancy and get back to what they were formed for in the first place, MAKE MORE FISH! Washington is not like it was 200 years ago and it will never be again. We've destroyed so much of what our salmon depend upon to reproduce that the only way there will ever be enough fish for the Southern Resident Killer Whales and Humans is by producing more fish in hatcheries. What other proven way is there that will produce more fish, NONE!

Name: **Ron Beardemphl**

Email Address: **flykaster2@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Kennewick, WA 99338, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 4:31:00 AM**

Comment:

Commissioners. Please move forward with this draft policy. Got some meaningful work done.

Name: **Todd Bennin**

Email Address: **ToyaMiAce@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Everett, WA 98208, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 4:31:00 AM**

Comment:

Hatcheries do help the future of both yours and mine grandchildren! They make sense...

Name: **Vic Cox**

Email Address: **fishermanvic@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Camano, WA 98282, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 5:19:00 AM**

Comment:

We need to increase hatchery production!

Name: **Dave Clark**

Email Address: **cougman@beebyclark.com**

Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98115, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 7:13:00 AM**

Comment:

WDFW Commissioners,

RE: Washington State Fisheries Co-Manager Joint Policy

WDFW, Tribal and NOAA have the best, most experienced salmon biologists available. These experts will ensure our salmon are cared for from eggs to adults. This includes both hatchery and natural spawners. We need to trust our experts in their recommendations and proposals and not listen to outside 3rd parties that have single purpose and selfish motivations driving their positions. Please move forward with this policy and rely on our own experts for all scientific and resource related advice.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dave Clark

4005 NE 60th Street
Seattle, WA 98115

Name: **Douglas Butler**
Email Address: **coachbutler@comcast.net**
Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 12:57:00 PM**

Comment:

Please continue to increase hatchery production for salmon.
This helps whales, sportfishing resorts, fishing towns (such as Westport), tackle store and people that want to go outside and fish.

Name: **NoName5**
Email Address:
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 1:44:16 PM**

Comment:

The Skamania Strain Chinook eggs that were shipped to Chile in the 1970s came from hatchery adults. The parent fish averaged 17 pounds. Soos Creek Hatchery, in Kent had been raising different strains other than Duammish chinook, was one that sent eggs
The same eggs became the basis of what is in Chile and Argentina.
These fish Now WEIGH Up To 80 pounds, averaging 35 pounds.
These were hatchery fish.
It's in their DNA, the wild only policy is debunked.
There haven't been wild Salmon or Steelhead in any Washington River for 70 years.
It's been mismanaged. Poorly.
Time to study more and figure out that much of this "Science" needs further review.
There is more. The Chile Salmon that escaped net pens came back to mainly one river to spawn.
Now they are established in 14 rivers and Two counties.
A new world Record King is being certified last year. 106 pounds from an inferior HATCHERY KING SALMON.

Name: **Bart Mahugh**
Email Address: **salmonscales@aol.com**
Postal Address: **Tacoma, WA 98407, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 3:37:00 PM**

Comment:

I'm commenting on wdfw policy c-3624. Five years of work has already been put to this policy. Let's not waste this time and effort, and move on to the next step without delay.

Name: **tad kasuya**
Email Address: **tkasuya38@gmail.com**
Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 5:05:00 PM**

Comment:

For so many reasons, our hatcheries must be improved and hatchery production must be increased. The so-called reasons for reducing hatchery production have no basis in science, nor in common sense. WDFW needs to fight for what it was created for, to continue to provide quality natural resources for all to enjoy. Cutting hatchery production will do nothing to increase "wild" salmon survival, will continue to decimate Orca populations, and will hurt this State's economy. Sport Fishing is the largest contributor to WDFW funding, and a huge contributor to State tax revenues. WAKE UP commission and legislators!!!

Name: **Michael Gilchrist**

Email Address: **mikegilchrist@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Federal Way, WA 98023, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 5:25:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward with the draft co-manager hatchery policy. There are many good reasons to move forward given the support important parties have given. I see nothing of significant concern and have not been made aware of any arguments in opposition which I deem to have merit.

Name: **WENDELL BUNCH**

Email Address: **ccanadensis@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Oak Harbor, WA 98277, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 5:43:00 PM**

Comment:

I support the Co-managers Hatchery Policy. The decline in salmonoids across the region will never cease until humans leave the area. Until that time we need to supplement our runs with hatchery fish. At the same time we need to eliminate third party involvement in our hatchery programs. These groups appear to be designed to provide financial income for themselves while providing nothing to solving the problems of declining fish populations.

Name: **John Chalenor**

Email Address: **chalenor@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Lynnwood, WA 98036, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 7:15:00 PM**

Comment:

This policy should be adopted. The Tribe's and WDFW need to work together for the greater good of all stakeholders including the Orcas.

Please provide language such that 3rd parties would find it hard to sue and litigate over fish policy.

This is a great chance to do the right thing and approve Policy C-3624.

Name: **RICHARD COOK**

Email Address: **rlc.forensic@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Anacortes, WA 98221, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 7:26:00 PM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Name: **Tom Owen**

Email Address: **towen15@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Tacoma, WA 98422, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 7:46:00 PM**

Comment:

No third party involvement in the Co managers' hatchery policy. Tribes and state are enough.

Name: **Erik Enselman**

Email Address: erik.enselman@gmail.com

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 8:14:00 PM**

Comment:

I fully support the joint policy agreement. As an avid recreational salmon angler, full support and production of all hatcheries is needed

Name: **Bob Keck**

Email Address: **keck2004@wavecable.com**

Postal Address: **Port Angeles, WA 98362, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 8:15:00 PM**

Comment:

Hatcheries are absolutely necessary. The survival rate of the fry from hatcheries is 85% versus only 10 and sometimes 5% of the fry hatched in the stream and rivers. The hatcheries use a natural spawning process ensuring the survival of the fry. Some fish from the hatcheries go up the river past the hatcheries and spawn there and others return to different rivers. I am very much in favor of habitat restoration for the rivers (we all want clean water) but it may be all but impossible to restore them to their pristine condition. Even in Alaska where there are many more rivers for salmon spawning a large network of hatcheries exist. For 75 years, these millions of fry, later smolts, and fingerlings, and finally mature salmon feed a vast number of marine life, especially the Orcas and other whale species. Today's rivers will never be able to spawn enough fish to keep them from extinction. A case in point is the Elwha River. It's been 5 years since the

removal of the dams, yet almost all the fish in the upper river are from their hatcheries. Hatcheries are a true blessing and to not ensure their continued existence would be a travesty.

Name: **David Renne**

Email Address: **drenne4@comcast.net**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 8:22:00 PM**

Comment:

Dear WDFW,

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

1. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

2. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

3. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

4. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Other points you may use:

- Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.
 - Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might "supersede" Commission Policy C-3624.
 - Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.
 - Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.
 - This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.
 - It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.
 - With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.
-

Name: **Nic Willman**

Email Address: **willman15@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Bothell, WA 98012, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 10:11:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Other points you may use:

Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might "supersede" Commission Policy C-3624.

Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.

This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Thanks for your time.

Name: **Doug Saint-Denis**

Email Address: **gofish@ridgetoriveroutdoors.com**

Postal Address: **Stanwood, WA 98292, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 10:42:00 PM**

Comment:

I am asking you to move forward to the next step of SEPA review process. Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it. We cannot continue to blame hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there.

I think everyone is in agreement, we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Hatchery production has been severely from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

The time is now. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides on the same side of the table.

Here are some additional bullet points.

- The policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

- It must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might "supersede" Commission Policy C-3624.

- Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

- Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.

- This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

- It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **John Rickert**

Email Address: **Johnrickert7@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Federal Way, WA 98003, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 10:45:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move Gordon this proposal.
Thanks

Name: **Mitchell Coleman**

Email Address: **Mitch@outercityadventures.com**

Postal Address: **Silver Creek, WA 98585, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 11:16:00 PM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery

Name: **Boyd Bode**

Email Address: **Boydbode@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Mount Vernon, WA 98273, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/25/2023 11:53:00 PM**

Comment:

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Name: **Jim Jarl**

Email Address: **Jimjarl68@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Port Angeles, WA 98362, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 12:25:00 AM**

Comment:

It's time to make changes is this failed plan. Please use all our resources

Name: **Merrill Lohuis**

Email Address: **whitewaterwyo@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 12:31:00 AM**

Comment:

Gentlemen: The science is incontrovertable. Hatcheries are the only viable way to provide enough King Salmon for Orcas to survive.

Washington has spent millions to improve spawning habitat, but those dollars have not, and can't mitigate the population increase in the state and the resultant problems. This is especially true in light of increasing temperatures and decrease in water quality.

Hatcheries, while perhaps not the final solution to salmon reproduction are a reasonable step in that direction.

Sincerely,

Merrill A Lohuis, Sequim WA

Name: **Kevin Montague**

Email Address: **dogunit59@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Port Angeles, WA 98362, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 12:42:00 AM**

Comment:

Let's all do the right thing and increase the hatchery production in Washington State. Seems like the only way to maintain what little is left.

"Increase the Hatcheries"

Name: **Mike Champeaux**

Email Address: **Varmintboy54@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 1:08:00 AM**

Comment:

1. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

2. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

3. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

*

* This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

* It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

* With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

I can't stress how important this is for the survival of the salmon and the Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery

This needs to move I...

Name: **David Christopher**

Email Address: dkchristopher@sequimbay.net
Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 1:15:00 AM**

Comment:

I understand the need for habitat preservation and improvements, but more hatcheries are essential to fulfill the needs of the ORCAS as well as fishermen. Please apply more of the infrastructure money to sustainable hatcheries!

Name: **Ed Essex**
Email Address: ed@goodideasforlife.com
Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 1:15:00 AM**

Comment:

The salmon demise is a complicated one. Its impossible to get everyone to agree. This plan that has taken 6 years to develop needs to be implemented. It isn't going to improve with time. We are out of time. This is the best plan today and certainly not the end. We need to keep working together in order to achieve the best outcome. Right now, this is it. Please act now to implenent the above proposed Policy.

Name: **Raymond Ellis**
Email Address: Ray.ellis80@gmail.com
Postal Address: **Ellensburg, WA 98926, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 1:17:00 AM**

Comment:

I support moving forward with the SEPA process and full implementation of Hatchery Policy C-3624. The wild fish, the orcas, salmon co-manger and sportsmen/women depend upon this policy full implementation to restore wild runs and aid take by all users. Modern hatcheries don't negatively impact wild runs while providing opportunity for fishers. Some wild habitat will never be recovered. Therefore this process is indispensable. I want my grand children to have the opportunity I had growing up. Without fully implementing this process, they won't have this opportunity. Thanks.

Name: **Vic Burri**
Email Address: vicburri@wyoming.com
Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 1:28:00 AM**

Comment:

I fully support the Washington State Joint Co-Manager Hatchery Policy and encourage the WDFW Commissioners to vote YES on this.

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to

be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Policy must include specific language stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers. Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624. Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits. Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive. This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs. It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a “natural population” entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are “natural origin” with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter. With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Thank you for consideration of my positive endorsement of this policy.

Vic Burri

425 Hanley Way

Sequim, WA. 98382

307-690-4870

Name: **Roberto Jannetti**

Email Address: **rob@avidfisherman.net**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 1:30:00 AM**

Comment:

Please move forward to the next step of SEPA review process, we need all the hatchery production we can get, natural habitat that has been lost will take decades to come back, hatcheries can fill in the void, let’s work together with the tribes and move forward. The wild fish coalition are dreamers in this day and age.

Name: **Kevin Keate**

Email Address: **kckeate@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 1:41:00 AM**

Comment:

Please begin SEPA evaluation. Hatcheries are the only way to sustain salmon and steelhead population while working to repair habitat destruction. The Hatcheries will benefit all parties and predators alike.

Name: **NoName6 (Ted)**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 3:27:04 AM**

Comment:

Fish hatcheries are an absolute necessity. The reason hatcheries started in the first place was because of shortage of salmon. Hatcheries release small fry that return many lbs bigger, just as we have highbred our other food resources, wheat, corn, rice, fruit trees, salmon are a necessity for feeding the population as it exist today, our oceans raise the fish for us and they then return. Hatcheries are the best use of our ocean resources. Hatchery fish are not genetically changed such as the food we are growing. They are simply helped to get a start in life and then left to there own resources to survive. We will always need hatcheries now and into the future. Ted

Name: **Patrick Guilfoile**

Email Address: **pguilfoile1@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 3:42:00 AM**

Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I believe this co-manager hatchery policy would be an important step forward in reviving salmon stocks for both tribal and non-tribal fishermen, and for supporting Orcas and other animals that rely on salmon as an important food source. In the ideal world, it would be desirable to have only naturally-reproducing stocks of salmon. However, given the habitat degradation, pollution, environmental changes, and other factors that affect salmon populations, it is not possible to maintain adequate salmon stocks without hatchery fish. Therefore, this co-management policy is important to ensure that sufficient numbers of hatchery fish are produced, going forward.

Some clarifications in the policy that would strengthen it further would include:

A commitment to stakeholder input in development of regional plans for co-management of salmon fisheries.

Clarify that the co-managers and the state will defend the plans against third-party lawsuits.

Indicate that co-managers would conduct a review of genetic criteria to ensure that such criteria are based on sound science, and not unnecessarily restrictive.

Hopefully, those clarifications can be made, and this policy will move forward to help ensure that salmon will once again thrive in Washington waters.

Name: **Arden Snyder**

Email Address: **alsnyder2868@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 3:57:00 AM**

Comment:

I am fully supportive of the Co-Manager proposal.

Name: **Jean Wilde**

Email Address: **webe2wild1s@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 4:21:00 AM**

Comment:

I vote yes to hatcheries

Name: **Duane Nail**

Email Address: **nail68@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Port Townsend, WA 98368, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 4:34:00 AM**

Comment:

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Name: **Robert Scherbarth**

Email Address: ROB.SCHERBARTH@GMAIL.COM

Postal Address: **Port Orchard, WA 98367, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 2:03:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

We need hatchery fish to help improve the natural wild stock and give Sportsman an opportunity to catch fish!

Name: **Harry Bresnahan**

Email Address: **Fishingwithharry@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Woodland, WA 98674, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 2:53:00 PM**

Comment:

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Name: **Ron Casscles**

Email Address: **Neahbaytwo@olypen.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 4:12:00 PM**

Comment:

Please vote yes on the salmon and steelhead hatchery bill. Thank you, Ron Casscles

Name: **Warren Pietras**

Email Address: **Warren-Julie@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Gig Harbor, WA 98335, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 4:17:00 PM**

Comment:

Make the power companies meet their obligations to replace fish runs displaced by dams. Who is funding these anti hatchery people? The power companies?

Name: **Kenneth Munroe**

Email Address: **munroecent@aol.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 4:39:00 PM**

Comment:

As a recreational fisherman we are mostly only allowed to keep clipped hatchery fish. If we do not have hatcheries we don't have a recreational fishery.

Name: **bob steinberg**

Email Address: **steinbergrobert6@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Everett, WA 98203, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 4:57:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward on the next step of SEPA review process. Studies have shown That to spawning habitat in many state streams is unable to support naturally spawning fish. Hatcheries are needed to provide resources to provide fish to sustain fish populations for people and orcas.

Name: **Brian Edmiston**

Email Address: **Fishon594@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Port Angeles, WA 98363, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 5:37:00 PM**

Comment:

Vote yes to approve this policy. With decreasing stocks of salmon, hatcheries can fill help fill the void whether it's a bad flood year or warm stream water that impact smolt survival. These fish are the exact same genetically as the fish spawning in the river only with the protection of a controlled environment to get them to the smolt stage to help them through some environmental challenges. Please vote yes to approve the new hatchery policy.

Name: **NoName7**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 5:43:40 PM**

Comment:

Please return my favorite sport, my retirement days are dwindling and feed the whales, we need hatcheries.

Name: **John Albiso**

Email Address: **juannsal1988@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Port Angeles, WA 98363, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 5:52:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Name: **Troy McKelvey**

Email Address: **troyckelvey3@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Port Townsend, WA 98368, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 6:07:00 PM**

Comment:

We need more hatchery production. Present low hatchery production is not working. Return to 1985 hatchery production levels.

Name: **Doug Lumsden**

Email Address: doug.lumsden@comcast.net

Postal Address: **Arlington, WA 98223, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 6:33:00 PM**

Comment:

As a fourth generation Washington resident and fisherman, I strongly support the Joint Policy Agreement for the management of Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We must take this opportunity to move forward on a solid scientific basis with the most capable stakeholders at the helm.

Name: **william benton**

Email Address: **FISHSLAYER75@HOTMAIL.COM**

Postal Address: **Westport, WA 98595, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 7:20:00 PM**

Comment:

agree

Name: **David Goldstein**

Email Address: **inageboy@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Port Angeles, WA 98362, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 8:29:00 PM**

Comment:

As a fisherman in Clallam County for over 22 years, I fully support the adoption of Anadromous Salmon & Steelhead Hatchery Policy (C-3624). Please we need more hatchery fish as wild populations, for various reasons are continuing to dwindle toward nothing. Please move forward with this co-managed hatchery policy so the next generation might still have a chance to catch salmon and steelhead as well. Thank you kindly, David Goldstein

Name: **Lisa Kavanaugh**

Email Address: **mrslongsforu@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Tacoma, WA 98405, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 10:27:00 PM**

Comment:

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Name: **Stan Duncan**

Email Address: **stan_duncan@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98155, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/26/2023 11:09:00 PM**

Comment:

I'm writing to support going forward with the next step with the Joint Policy. This will balance the risks of the hatchery program with the benefits of the program. The current habitat won't support enough salmon to feed the Orcas and sea lions and could lead to the extinction of the salmon as predators feed on declining numbers of fish. Tribal, state, and NOAA biologists have the knowledge to do their job if they aren't interfered with by 3rd parties with different agendas.

Name: **Ken Townsend**
Email Address: **btgssts1@gmail.com**
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 12:39:00 AM**

Comment:

I am writing this to show my support for the Hatchery Co- Manager Policy that needs to be approved. Please vote yes on the Washington State Fisheries Co-Manager Joint Policy and move this forward.
Hatcheries can't be blamed for habitat loss. Some river basins are in such poor shape (habitat wise) that they might not be able to support sufficient numbers of Native Origin Stock to rebuild the run in a timely manor. Hatchery's will allow for the stock to have a chance for survival while the habitat is being repaired.
Hatchery Production has been cut from 1989 to 2021. It has been shown that the decline in hatchery production is related to the decline in Natural Origin Fish Populations and the developing problems with Southern Resident Killer Whales. Hatcheries are not the enemy. When used properly they can be part of the solution.
We do not need to have third party Oversight of our hatcheries or their policies.The Co-Managers,Tribes and the Washington State Fish and Wildlife, have the best salmon biologist in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that keeps hatchery production down below that which was required by the Endangered Species Act.
Again I Support voting Yes on the Washington State Fisheries Co-Manager Joint Policy.

Name: **SOEREN POULSEN**
Email Address: **USMC98382@GMAIL.COM**
Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 12:50:00 AM**

Comment:

BY DECREASING AND REMOVING HATCHERIES YOU ARE REMOVING A GREAT AND IMPORTANT ACTIVITY FROM MYSELF, MY GRAND CHILDREN AND THE FUTURE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

Name: **Steve Demus**
Email Address: **STEVE.DEMUS@HOTMAIL.COM**
Postal Address: **Spokane, WA 99218, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 1:13:00 AM**

Comment:

I support voting yes to move on with the Co-Manager Policy.

Name: **Douglas Schlicting**
Email Address: **dougschlicting@comcast.net**
Postal Address: **Edmonds, WA 98026, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 1:15:00 AM**

Comment:

Totally agree with the Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy (C-3624) and feel it should be approved and completed as soon as possible.

Name: **Kenny Jans**
Email Address: **kennyjans@msn.com**
Postal Address: **Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 2:39:00 AM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might "supersede" Commission Policy C-3624.

Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.

This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Ralph Raymond**
Email Address: **Rciralph@yahoo.com**
Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 3:35:00 AM**

Comment:

Yes – please push forward on this. It’s obvious to me that, until more habitat improvements take effect, we must have more hatchery fish to handle the huge demand for recreation, orcas, and tribes. Our way of life and salmon runs are in trouble – we caused it, and we need to fix it with hatchery fish. Thank you.

Name: **Richard Lavaty**
Email Address: **Rick@lavaty.com**
Postal Address: **Tucson, AZ 85749, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 4:45:00 AM**

Comment:

Please support the tribes and sport fishermen. We need to dramatically increase hatchery production both for them and to support the only Orca in the world that survive solely on salmon.

Name: **Richard Gregory**
Email Address: **rwgav8@hotmail.com**
Postal Address: **Puyallup, WA 98374, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 5:40:00 AM**

Comment:

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Name: **Norman Alexander**
Email Address: **wantn2bfishn@comcast.net**
Postal Address: **Auburn, WA 98002, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 7:33:00 AM**

Comment:

I’m hoping the new policy moves forward. Having all managers on board is a great event in its self let’s get going and get it done.

Name: **Ron Lawrence**
Email Address: **twncntryinc@comcast.net**
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 3:53:00 PM**

Comment:

We need all hatcheries running at full capacity, as we have seen the disastrous results the last several decades have proven when they have been severely cut back or eliminated. The ocean conditions are currently favorable, and we need to make hay while we can and not waste time with this opportunity for the immediate results and those for future generations.

Name: **David Brodie**

Email Address: **Davidbrodiejr@ymail.com**
Postal Address: **Snohomish, WA 98290, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 3:58:00 PM**

Comment:

I am a Washington State fishing license holder and have been for over 40 years. It's important to me and my family to have hatchery salmon and steelhead fishing opportunities. Thank you.

Name: **Jay Jay Pedersen**
Email Address: **jayped@msn.com**
Postal Address: **Woodway, WA 98020, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 4:00:00 PM**

Comment:

We need to move forward with this!

Name: **Matthew Nutsch**
Email Address: **Matt.tmma@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98155, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 4:28:00 PM**

Comment:

Maintaining a robust hatchery program is crucial to the ongoing hope of there being Pacific salmon species in the coming years. The idea that natural sources of fish production such as rivers, streams and lakes will ever be able to keep up with demand for salmon is laughable. Due to continued habitat destruction, pollution and egregious mismanagement of the resources by the co-managers the native fish populations are incredibly disadvantaged. More emphasis needs to be put on restoring habitat and banning non-sustainable fishing practices. Anything short of true commitment to saving our fish is just folly. With that said the hatchery programs are paramount to keeping the population of fish high enough that there may be enough to recover the fisheries once true commitment to saving the fish is agreed up by both parties of the co-management arrangement.

Name: **Joseph Meyers**
Email Address: **heartlandllc@msn.com**
Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 4:35:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might "supersede" Commission Policy C-3624.

Name: **Paul Foster**
Email Address: **pfoster@englundmarine.com**
Postal Address: **Westport, WA 98595, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 4:44:00 PM**

Comment:

We need more hatchery production in the State Of Washington to insure the harvest of salmon and steelhead for all user groups.

Name: **Dennis Harman**

Email Address:

Postal Address: **Sumner, WA 98390, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 5:33:00 PM**

Comment:

I am an avid Steelhead and Salmon Fisher. I am fifth generation resident of Washington state. My relatives were living in this country before the last Indian wars. I have seen the drop in our fishing opportunities due to lack of adequate Hatchery support. The sportsman must have Representation in the decision making process. It cannot be do behind closed doors by only 2 parties. We must also insure that we all stand together against predatory Lawsuits by groups who are only searching for Monitory Settlements for their own gain. If you truly want to allow the public stakeholders to share in the decision making process...then you must allow us to do so...

Sincerely,

Dennis Harman

Reel River Fisher of Washington

Subsistence, Cultural, Spiritual, and Historic advocate of Washington fishers

Name: **Dennis Harman**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 5:33:03 PM**

Comment:

I am an avid Steelhead and Salmon Fisher. I am fifth generation resident of Washington state. My relatives were living in this country before the last Indian wars. I have seen the drop in our fishing opportunities due to lack of adequate Hatchery support. The sportsman must have Representation in the decision making process. It cannot be do behind closed doors by only 2 parties. We must also insure that we all stand together against predatory Lawsuits by groups who are only searching for Monitory Settlements for their own gain. If you truly want to allow the public stakeholders to share in the decision making process...then you must allow us to do so...

Sincerely,

Dennis Harman

Reel River Fisher of Washington

Subsistence, Cultural, Spiritual, and Historic advocate of Washington fishers

Name: **Glenn Hayward**

Email Address: **lghayward@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **4803 NE 75th st**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 5:41:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move this forward to the next step in the process. Common sense and science can tell us that our Salmon and Steelhead populations would be essentially non-existent without hatchery production. Cuts in production have led to Orca issues, cuts to recreational fishing and more, all of which have a negative economic impact but more importantly a way of life for many. Billions of fish have been hatchery produced over the last century. We need to stop blaming hatcheries and embrace them for keeping salmon and steelhead in existence. We all want naturally spawning robust runs but common sense tells us it is not possible without hatcheries. Thanks for reading

Name: **Jason Bushman**

Email Address: **bushmanj85@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 6:05:00 PM**

Comment:

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Name: **Clint Muns**

Email Address: **fishhog211@aol.com**

Postal Address: **Skokomish, WA 98584, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 6:07:00 PM**

Comment:

Thank you for considering my SUPPORT for the "Joint Policy Agreement for the Management of Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries Between Treaty Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife". I believe this policy is necessary at this time.

Name: **William Forstrom**

Email Address: **billforstrom@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Olympia, WA 98512, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 6:12:00 PM**

Comment:

I believe implementing the proposed policy will be positive for the future of fishing in Washington

Name: **Allen Morrow**

Email Address: **ramorrow@pacifier.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 6:14:00 PM**

Comment:

The formal adoption of the proposed co-manager hatchery policy is essential for the survival of our once great salmon populations. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish and this proposed policy will ensure that happens.

Current hatchery production policies that emphasize reduction of the number of fish released into the environment with the intent to increase the number of naturally spawned salmon clearly haven't worked. Instead we have experienced a significant reduction in naturally spawned salmon in most of our water ways. I believe the current hatchery practices using in basin brood stock will enable us to not only increase the number of salmon available for harvest by Orcas and recreational and commercial fishers while at the same time preserving the genetic nature of the remaining naturally spawned salmon in that river basin.

I close by again urging you to adopt the proposed Co-Manager Hatchery Policy

Allen Morrow

Name: **Dave Croonquist**

Email Address: **dcroonquist@gmail.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 6:21:00 PM**

Comment:

Good morning, Commissioners

I am adding my support requesting your passage of the "Joint Policy Agreement for the Management of Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries Between Treaty Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife".

This agreement between the State and the Tribes has been a long time coming and it pleases me to see the improving cooperation between the State and the Tribes to move the utilization of available hatchery capacity forward to improve not only natural spawning salmonid populations but also to meet the needs of the users of the various fisheries including the tribal and non-tribal commercial fleets, the tribal subsistence and ceremonial fisheries, the recreational fisheries all of which generate millions of dollars for the state economy. Additionally, increased production of all species. But most importantly the Chinook, will have long term benefits for the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) population.

Hatchery production peaked in 1985 and that should be the benchmark for future production. The decline in production since then parallels the decline in naturally spawning fish and the decline in the SRKW population.

Hatcheries, habitat, hydro, and harvest are all interconnected. Habitat is finite and despite on-going efforts to reclaim past losses, it is going to be a losing battle in the long term. Hydro projects are critical to long term energy needs, particularly here in the Pacific Northwest. The effects of hydro production has had and will continue to impact salmonid populations and natural reproduction. Decreases in salmon numbers has had a negative impact (financially and spiritually) on all the citizens, visitors to the state who support the businesses and the WDFW in supplying the essential goods and services for fishing activities. Hatcheries are, in most of the river basins of this state, the most efficient spawning tributaries within the basin. Properly utilized, hatcheries can meet the needs of re-building natural origin spawning populations within the constraints of available habitat, and sustaining or rebuilding salmonid populations that will be accessible to the SRKW, for tribal treaty commitments, and for all the residents and visitors to Washington who enjoy the opportunity to access our fisheries. Washington could, once again, become the destination salmon fishing location it was during the 1970s and 1980s.

Everyone, and the SRKW, will benefit from passage of the policy in front of you. Please vote "Yes".

Thank you.

Dave Croonquist

Sequim, WA

Name: **Amy Fortier**

Email Address: **sequimmer@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 6:57:00 PM**

Comment:

Please fully fund and develop MORE hatcheries. Why wouldn't you create more hatchery production in this time of fewer native fish? Hatcheries are a responsible way to keep and expand salmon for use by humans and orcas and others involved in the salmon life cycle. The time to preserve genetic stocks has long passed. Please, fund more hatcheries to make salmon more abundant and available in the Pacific Northwest.

Name: **Rob Larsen**

Email Address: **Topfishinguy@gmail.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 7:02:00 PM**

Comment:

Please pass this through it is critical to our salmon future. Without this we will not be able to maintain our salmon returns. ("Joint Policy Agreement for the Management of Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries Between Treaty Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife")

Name: **LONNIE SPROAT**

Email Address: **lonniesproat@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Wenatchee, WA 98802, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 7:10:00 PM**

Comment:

This process of finding reasonable solutions to leverage the benefits of both hatchery and natural spawning fish has been a long well thought out process to get us to this recommended policy. I believe this policy is in the best interests of WDFW, the Tribal Coalition and knowledgeable recreational fisherman in order to not only stop the decline of this fishery, but a way to make it stronger. With the expertise of WDFW, tribal partners and experienced fisherman agreeing on this policy it should bring us confidence that this is the best path to take.

Name: **Timothy Himmelberger**

Email Address: **timhimmel@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Snoqualmie, WA 98065, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 7:10:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

- We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.
- We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.
- Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

- We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.
 - Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.
 - Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624.
 - Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.
 - Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.
 - This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.
 - It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a “natural population” entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are “ natural origin” with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.
 - With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this
-

Name: **Leon Sproat**

Email Address: **sproat74@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Auburn, WA 98002, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 7:13:00 PM**

Comment:

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Name: **hunter family trust paul hunter**

Email Address: **phu8880746@aol.com**

Postal Address: **Anacortes, WA 98221, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 7:28:00 PM**

Comment:

adopt c-3624 & help rebuild our salmon stocks, I have personally been involved in restocking pens and seen results

Name: **hunter family trust paul hunter**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 7:28:19 PM**

Comment:

adopt c-3624 & help rebuild our salmon stocks, I have personally been involved in restocking pens and seen results

Name: **Mark Schinman**
Email Address: **mark@schinman.com**
Postal Address: **Stanwood, WA 98292, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 7:30:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

1. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.
2. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.
3. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.
4. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Other points:

- Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.
- Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might "supersede" Commission Policy C-3624.
- Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.
- Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.
- This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.
- It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.
- With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **SHANE SUOMELA**
Email Address: **ssuomela@englundmarine.com**
Postal Address: **Naselle, WA 98638, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 7:41:00 PM**

Comment:

WE NEED TO HAVE INCREASED HATCHERY PRODUCTION TO KEEP THE SALMON RUNS SUSTAINED THE HATCHIES WERE PUT IN PLACE TO HELP FROM HABITAT LOSS FROM PEOPLE NOW THEY HAVE BEEN SHUTTING THEM DOWN WE NEED MORE PRODUCTION FROM THEM

Name: **Chris Sproat**

Email Address: **chrissproat@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Auburn, WA 98092, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 7:43:00 PM**

Comment:

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Name: **Russell Carver**

Email Address: **carver2947@msn.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 8:33:00 PM**

Comment:

Please vote yes on this important issue . We have waited years for this . After all the years of studies bwe were right now we bneed full bhatchery production to get started in the right direction again . thank you for your patience. Russell Carver Sr.

Name: **James W. Tuggle**

Email Address: **tugstours@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Olympia, WA 98512, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 8:34:00 PM**

Comment:

This is an excellent policy that needs to be adopted by the Commission and the tribes. It is well thought out to include ecosystem considerations and naturally adaptive stocks.

Name: **William Thomson**

Email Address: **thomson359@wavecable.com**

Postal Address: **Anacortes, WA 98221, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 9:14:00 PM**

Comment:

Continuous adequate hatchery production of anadromous salmon and steelhead is necessary if our state is serious about removing these fish from the ESL. In addition our southern Orcas would benefit from the increase in their food of choice.

Name: **KEN TACKETT**

Email Address: **ktack174@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Lacey, WA 98516, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 9:45:00 PM**

Comment:

The WDFW, The Tribes and NOAA have the best salmon biologists out there. Let's continue to follow their science and produce more hatchery fish as well as natural spawners for the benefit of all the user groups as well as the Southern Resident Orcas. Maybe while we are at it, we should cut down on the seal and sealion populations as well. Just my two cents worth.

Name: **RICK AYER**

Email Address: **richarda98208@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Everett, WA 98208, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 10:23:00 PM**

Comment:

SALMON AND STEELHEAD WILL NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT OUR HATCHERIES. WE CAN NOT CUT BACK OUR REMOVE ANY OF THE HATCHERIES

Name: **NoName8**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 10:25:55 PM**

Comment:

Make more fish per our tax dollars we support you with. No Fish, no license no WDFW. Plain and simple, you need to do more for the Salmon and the tax payers, because its not working what we are doing now.

Name: **Mark Coleman**

Email Address: **mark@allwashingtonfishing.com**

Postal Address: **Snoqualmie, WA 98065, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 10:32:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward to get this to the next step in SEPA review process.

This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

Name: **Tim Munns**

Email Address: **3munnskateers@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Buckley, WA 98321, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 10:55:00 PM**

Comment:

Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **F Faulkner**

Email Address: **fmfaulkner@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Bremerton, WA 98312, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 10:56:00 PM**

Comment:

Right out of the gate we seem to have posturing and flexing (implicit threat of lawsuits) rather than cooperation. Maybe it's just reassurance or it could be the old "let me remind you I can hurt you, now let's negotiate" approach. Treaty rights can be covered in the preamble for context. This document/policy is being created because there are treaties and the Co-Managers should already know and follow the law.

In that light, strike the first sentence of the first principle. The Constitution is THE supreme law of the land from which treaties and other laws derive. Treaties are 'a' supreme law of the land not 'the' supreme law of the land. An important article was missing from the sentence.

What motivated stating this?

So principle 1 boils down to treaties and other laws of the land will be followed, which seems a bit silly to have to state. Principle 2 is redundant and covered by treaty rights as stated in principle 1 and the preamble.

Is repetition being used as a persuasive strategy here? This technique is being used repeatedly throughout the document. A simple search of "United States v. State of Washington" or a derivative shows this is on four out of the five total pages – sometimes multiple times on the same page.

Principle 3 please replace 'recreational' with 'public'.

Non-tribal citizens do not "play with their food", and 'recreational' denotes efforts purely for pleasure. I can assure you I'm out harvesting fish to feed my family, not just hoping to 'encounter' them. Pleasure is a nice bonus.

Where is the principle of transparency between governments and the public?

Without transparency trust wanes. Who hasn't heard grumblings that the tribes don't fin-clip and that the state only clips 90%. There are legitimate reasons for not clipping every fish and this should be explained on a release basis.

Funding should be secured to set up a hatchery web portal that is kept current on the state of production and releases. One should be able to look at the metrics of each hatchery and each release of stock. These grumblings may disappear and attitudes switch to support or at least understanding.

A commitment to evidence based science, and not pseudo science or opinions, should be stated as a fundamental principle, perhaps the most fundamental principle since so many decisions are based on the results.

Here is a pseudo science example: There are some dismal runs in the mid-Hood Canal that are derivatives of past hatchery efforts.

These are not native-origin but the effect of treating them so, is that large areas of fishing grounds are closed. This is purely fish politics trumping science.

Fish politics also creeps in when discussing the merits of hatchery versus non-clipped (maybe natural-origin) runs.

Are there a set of studies that show hatchery stock X is inferior to a particular non-clipped run,

or is this merely opinion, based on the assumption there is (significant) biodiversity value between the two? Please commit to using actual science and eliminating assumptions and bias.

Other than that. Good job. Hope it works out.

Name: **Denny Clawson**

Email Address: denny.clawson@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/27/2023 11:54:00 PM**

Comment:

I am writing in support of the Washington State Joint Co-Manager Hatchery Policy and the public review through the SEPA process. I urge the commission to vote yes in support of more fish production in existing hatcheries and expand as needed creating new facilities.

The science indicates fish hatcheries are the best solution to low fish counts effecting commercial, tribal and recreational fisheries. WDFW, NOAA and the tribes have the best world class fishery biologists dedicated to make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Mistakes have been made in the past with regards to fish hatchery productions that has lead to the decline in salmon and steelhead runs. Some minority special interest groups pushed WDFW to severely cut hatchery production beginning 1989. It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are " natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

As a result of reduced hatchery production the recreational fisheries have been hard hit as well as starving our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

In closing, I urge the Commission to move this to the SEPA review level without further delays.

Thank you

Denny Clawson

Name: **Paul Thompson**

Email Address: acepaul2@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Lynnwood, WA 98087, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out the risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support adequate numbers of naturally spawning fish. There is simply no point in spending millions of dollars rebuilding spawning habitat if we do not maintain healthy populations of salmon through increased hatchery programs. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Hatchery production has been severely cut from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Some things any new policy must address:

- Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

- Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624.

- Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

- Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.

This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a “natural population” entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are “ natural origin” with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Peter Tarabochia**

Email Address: **ptarabochia@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98166, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 12:23:00 AM**

Comment:

1. We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

2. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

3. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

4. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Other points you may use:

5. Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

6. Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might “supersede” Commission Policy C-3624.

7. Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.
 8. Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.
 9. This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.
 10. It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a “natural population” entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are “natural origin” with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.
 11. With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.
-

Name: **John Wilmes**

Email Address: **mollymarea@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Federal Way, WA 98001, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 2:07:00 AM**

Comment:

I vote yes on more hatchery fish with the Co manager hatchery program it sounds like a solid idea to produce a few more fish for all the marine life out there and there might just be a few left for us too.

Name: **Martin Chen**

Email Address: **marchen101@aol.com**

Postal Address: **Olympia, WA 98512, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 2:51:00 AM**

Comment:

My name is Martin F Chen. I am a former employee of CDFG, WDFW and NWIFC with 27 years of work experience as a fish pathologist working with salmonid and nonsalmonid fish hatcheries. Some of the hatchery programs I worked with were harvest-oriented and some were very successful in restoring wild fish populations. I am currently Chapter President, South Sound Puget Sound Anglers and a Washington resident since 2000. I took part in the HSRG hatchery visits, policy formation and implementation 2001-2010. I strongly recommend adoption of the Washington State Fisheries Co-Manager Joint Policy. This document correctly describes the purpose and the importance of hatcheries in restoration of wild fish populations, restoring ecosystem balance and providing harvest opportunity for all parties. Thank you.

Name: **NoName9**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 2:54:35 AM**

Comment:

plant fish feed the whales; YES

Name: **Daniel Hill**

Email Address: **Straightshottt@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Mukilteo, WA 98275, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 3:01:00 AM**

Comment:

I am absolutely tired of all this madness. These people don't even fish that throw all this money onto this wild fish nonsense

Name: **Jerry Miller**

Email Address: **coppercreek@mail.com**

Postal Address: **Kirkland, WA 98034, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 3:11:00 AM**

Comment:

Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might "supersede" Commission Policy C-3624.

Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.

This draft policy makes hatchery "benefits" equal with hatchery "risks" in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a "natural population" entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are "natural origin" with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Dave Parker**

Email Address: david.konapacific@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Buckley, WA 98321, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 3:21:00 AM**

Comment:

We need hatchery production to infill salmon stocks to mitigate for losses in habitat and multiple dams on multiple northwest rivers

Name: **NoName10**
Email Address:
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 3:32:21 AM**

Comment:

This new hatchery plane would be great.
The more salmon fishing there is the more people I get to take.

Name: **Irene Martin**
Email Address: **i7846martin@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Skamokawa Valley, WA 98647, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 3:40:00 AM**

Comment:

My husband (Kent Martin) and I fully support the Hatchery Co-manager policy, and believe it is a major step in solidifying management relations with tribal entities in the future and developing those relationships to focus on needed improvements in habitat for fish and wildlife.

Name: **Jonathan Moore**
Email Address: **jonmoore76@hotmail.com**
Postal Address: **Port Townsend, WA 98368, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 3:48:00 AM**

Comment:

I am a Washington state resident and a commercial salmon troller. We need a robust salmon hatchery program to mitigate for the loss of fresh water habitat due to dams, I, climate change, etc. Commercial salmon fishing is a vital part of the economy and culture of the coastal communities in Washington State.

Name: **Dean Bearden**
Email Address: **drbbaseball@icloud.com**
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 3:54:00 AM**

Comment:

We need more hatchery salmon and steelhead planted all over the state not less. Nowhere where hatchery plants have been reduced have wild fish populations rebounded. To the contrary many have continued to decline.

Name: **Greg Ringelstetter**
Email Address: **gringelstetter@comcast.net**
Postal Address: **Oak Harbor, WA 98277, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 4:01:00 AM**

Comment:

There should be no groups that trump tribal and wdfw of fish production! These other entities should have no input on hatchery production.

Name: **JOE SHAPANSKY**

Email Address: **joski1@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Cosmopolis, WA 98537, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 4:18:00 AM**

Comment:

we need to run all hatcheries at full capacity!!!

Name: **Pete Pitman**

Email Address: **pjpitman@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Gig Harbor, WA 98335, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 4:30:00 AM**

Comment:

I agree with moving on with the policy

Name: **Scott Lomas**

Email Address: **sorslomas@embarqmail.com**

Postal Address: **Poulsbo, WA 98370, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 4:31:00 AM**

Comment:

Please pass the policy as written so that our salmon hatcheries can continue to provide salmon to our Puget Sound region. Thank you.

Name: **Greg Youell**

Email Address: **Yachtguy@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98155, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 4:32:00 AM**

Comment:

We need to put the hatcheries to work. We are not going to fix the watersheds in time to save the Orcas.

Name: **david reynolds**

Email Address: **daveroy2020@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Lacey, WA 98506, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 5:21:00 AM**

Comment:

Increased Hatchery production is necessary

Name: **Kory Murphy**

Email Address: **kjrrmurphy@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Forks, WA 98331, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 5:21:00 AM**

Comment:

Please keep the hatcheries alive. Salmon generate I of revenue for fishermen and businesses alike.

Name: **Zach Mason**

Email Address: **Zvmason47@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Redmond, WA 98052, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 6:41:00 AM**

Comment:

The establishment of fish hatcheries in Washington state has a long and storied legacy. The recent cutbacks to these life-giving tools have created damaging gaps in our aquatic resources. From the predators, who rely on salmon populations to the incredibly important family bonding opportunities that this resource provides, we cannot ignore every opportunity we have to bolster this resource. My local hatchery closed around the time my daughter was born. She is now nine years old and I have not caught a silver salmon on the Snoqualmie river with her. 10 years ago this was a strong fishery. No fish are coming back without our help. Let's use every resource at our disposal.

Name: **james hand**

Email Address: **jimhand_1@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Aberdeen, WA 98520, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 6:51:00 AM**

Comment:

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Name: **Kenneth Unkrur**

Email Address: **k.unkrur@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Spanaway, WA 98387, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 12:53:00 PM**

Comment:

I agree with moving the new policy on and to please vote yes for it.

Name: **Josh Durbin**

Email Address: **Jd_durbin@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Belfair, WA 98528, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 1:05:00 PM**

Comment:

Please continue to move forward with this plan. Thank you

Name: **NoName11**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 2:27:01 PM**

Comment:

We need more hatchery fish , they are the future .

Name: **Roy Nelson**

Email Address: **renelson33@gmail.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 3:25:00 PM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish. We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish. We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Name: **Chelsea Maudlin**

Email Address: **Cmaudlin91@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Mukilteo, WA 98275, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 4:02:00 PM**

Comment:

Blank in the comment field

Name: **Andy Fortino**

Email Address: **afortino@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Duvall, WA 98019, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 4:04:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward on the new Co-Manager Policy! More fish!

Name: **Jonathan Chamrad**

Email Address: **jonathanchamrad@hotmail.com**

Postal Address: **Olympia, WA 98512, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 4:15:00 PM**

Comment:

Principles 3 on down make the most sense and should be emphasized. While Treaty rights and obligations are important, the survivability of salmon are paramount. Native Americans who are using gillnets to take fish just for the sake of tradition, etc, is just as bad on the resource as the watershed issues. Recreational fishermen retention simply cannot touch the number of salmon caught in gillnets.

Name: **al roberts**

Email Address: **aljudrob@harbornet.com**

Postal Address: **Tacoma, WA 98406, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 5:06:00 PM**

Comment:

more hatcherys, yes 70, 80.s.90s. had lots of fish and all was good.

Name: **Jerry Butterfield**

Email Address: **jbutterfield1@frontier.com**

Postal Address: **Burlington, WA 98233, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 5:12:00 PM**

Comment:

I'm asking you to move forward and get the next step of SEPA review process completed. Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Jess Bullard**

Email Address: **jjbullard@me.com**

Postal Address: **Lakewood, WA 98409, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 5:20:00 PM**

Comment:

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Name: **Michael Mcfarland**

Email Address: **Mcfarlandfish@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Port Angeles, WA 98363, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 5:25:00 PM**

Comment:

Hatchery fish originate from the same eggs as wild fish and are needed to keep the resource sustainable.

Name: **Tim Bento**

Email Address: **Timothydavidbento@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Everson, WA 98247, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 7:16:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward on new hatchery policy. Thank you.

Name: **Leighton Dunaway**

Email Address: **Irickd@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Tacoma, WA 98445, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 7:20:00 PM**

Comment:

We need to approve the draft policy and move forward as quickly as possible. While I appreciate the need to collect information and opinions as well as regulatory requirements for reviews, etc., our salmon and Orca populations are being decimated and every day we delay their recovery is further threatened. Hatchery fish provide us with a much-needed resource to feed our Orcas, sustain our fishing economy, and help with the eventual recovery of our natural fish populations.

Name: **Scott Savinski**

Email Address: **Scottsavinski48@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Everett, WA 98208, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 7:34:00 PM**

Comment:

Yes more hatchery fish in Snohomish river system

Name: **Ted Beese**
Email Address: **sherribeese@comcast.net**
Postal Address: **Westport, WA 98595, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 7:49:00 PM**

Comment:

I started out sports fishing on rivers, as a boy, throughout Western Wa. I became a WA. State commercial fisher over 50 years ago. I have seen dramatic changes in the fish populations over that time. Two major factors have changed things: one, the population in WA. State has increased dramatically and therefore we have seen a huge increase in the number of fishers. Secondly, the advances in technology have outpaced the resource. Gone are the days when fishers caught by skill and luck, rather than currently by computers, etc. I believe the general population does not understand the difference between the natural fish population and those that are natural hatchery fish, raised and returning to their origin. As long as we allow natural spawning and do not change fish genetics, hatcheries can once more be successful with huge fishing runs. Over the last few years, when visiting local hatcheries, I have been astonished to see multiple empty pens, with only a few open and raising fish. This has definitely changed the numbers reaching state waters. At this time, I urge you to move forward to the SEPA review on this policy, before it is too late. Thank you. Ted Beese – 360-580-0274

Name: **NoName12**
Email Address:
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 8:04:00 PM**

Comment:

Please approve this policy, we need to continue the work of aiding the reproduction of and proliferation of salmon in low of all around healthy habitat and unobstructed migrations. Without hatcheries playing a large role, the people and wildlife that depend on the salmon of Washington state would see a devastating effect.

Name: **James Rice**
Email Address: **chefjacob2@yahoo.com**
Postal Address: **Everett, WA 98203, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 8:13:00 PM**

Comment:

Sepra Review Policy C-3624 vetted out risk

Name: **Robbie Taylor**
Email Address: **Robtay343@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 8:16:00 PM**

Comment:

My wife and I enjoy hatchery fishing, please keep this open with plenty of fish in the future

Name: **Duane Horton**
Email Address: **hortondg@comcast.net**
Postal Address: **Mount Vernon, WA 98273, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 8:21:00 PM**

Comment:

I support this 100%

Name: **Josh Benedict**
Email Address: **Jpaulbenedict@hotmail.com**
Postal Address: **Gold Bar, WA 98251, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 8:39:00 PM**

Comment:

Keep these programs alive and well!!!! As a disabled veteran with ptsd. Fishing is the best way for me to process, along with every other fisherman and veteran.

Name: **Harold Williams**
Email Address: **Snapper2136@comcast.net**
Postal Address: **Westport, WA 98595, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 8:43:00 PM**

Comment:

We need hatcheries more than anything I support the SEPA review

Name: **Brent Geisler**
Email Address: **brentgeisler@ymail.com**
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 9:12:00 PM**

Comment:

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Name: **ANDY MITBY**
Email Address: **ACMITBY@COMCAST.NET**
Postal Address: **Grayland, WA 98547, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 9:28:00 PM**

Comment:

I agree with moving on with the new policy. Differing between natural origin and natural populations for management purposes is a move in the right direction.

Name: **Cary Hofmann**

Email Address: **cnhguideservice@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Woodinville, WA 98077, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 9:30:00 PM**

Comment:

My name is Cary Hofmann

I own a charter business in Washington state and also an environmental restoration business focused on salmon habitat restoration

I've been in both industries for the last 15 years and have noticed some disparities between habitat management and fish/wildlife management.

There is a huge need for supplementation in both fields and hatchery production assists wild survival in a multitude of ways, Both in stream and in ocean environments.

The harsh reality is without hatchery production predator populations are too high to allow wild abundance to return to historical numbers, and we have very intricate mixed stock fisheries which create a management nightmare to provide meaningful fisheries and protect wild stocks.

I'm in full support of hatchery production and feel it should be prioritized.

Name: **Brett Costanzo**

Email Address: **bankerbrett88@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Auburn, WA 98092, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 9:50:00 PM**

Comment:

Please approve this measure. I am part of the future generations of anglers and it has become abundantly clear we need robust hatchery programs to save our fish. I will do everything in my power to save the fish. I volunteer at the hatchery, I have planted trees along rivers, spent countless hours researching.

Name: **Karl Freudenstein**

Email Address: **captkarl18@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Tacoma, WA 98443, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 9:50:00 PM**

Comment:

Please support this policy. I have a business that it is directly related to this policy. I'm as small as small business gets so by supporting this policy you are supporting my small business. Thank you

Name: **Kim Turver**

Email Address: **kimturver@comcast.net**

Postal Address: **Lacey, WA 98516, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 9:56:00 PM**

Comment:

This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs. With these points in mind, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Joel Belmont**

Email Address: **joelbelmont@yahoo.com**

Postal Address: **Rochester, WA 98579, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 10:03:00 PM**

Comment:

Hatchery production, and improvement of policy thereto, is absolutely essential to maintaining viable fish stocks for both harvest (recreational, commercial, etc) as well as to support the predator food chain (orcas, etc). There has been a disturbing trend of moving away from hatchery production, at the very time when it’s needed most. And it’s easy to look at watersheds where this has happened, and see the detrimental effects on fisheries when production is reduced or halted.

Anyone that supports healthy fisheries and wildlife should stand behind legislation like this, to help ensure these stocks for current and future generations. It’s a fundamental responsibility.

Name: **William Stoll**

Email Address: **extremegomer@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Grayland, WA 98547, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 10:16:00 PM**

Comment:

I support hatchery salmon and steelhead /trout programs and we should be able to fish for those hatchery fish if they are available.

Name: **Thomas Nelson**

Email Address: **Tom@theoutdoorline.com**

Postal Address: **Tulalip, WA 98271, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 11:54:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward with C-3624 the Joint Policy Agreement for the Management of Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries Between Treaty Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Our hatchery management decisions should be made by the Citizens of Washington and the co-managers. Thank you.

Name: **Peter Jepsen**

Email Address: **pjepsen77@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Sequim, WA 98382, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **2/28/2023 11:58:00 PM**

Comment:

I strongly support the new Washington State Joint Co-Manager Hatchery Policy and urge the commission to vote YES on the policy.

As a volunteer for the North Olympic Salmon Alliance, I am involved in restoring habitat on the Dungeness River. With hundreds of fellow volunteers doing the hard physical work of completing restoration projects, through hand planting of native shrubs and trees, it has become clear to me that we can never recover all the habitat that has been lost. Properly run hatcheries are vital to sustain existing populations and expand potential spawning populations to fill habitat as it is recovered.

This new policy, with its six guiding principles, is a common sense approach to run hatcheries in a manner that protects and enhances salmon populations.

Name: **NoName13**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 12:01:46 AM**

Comment:

We need hatcheries to enhance fishing opportunities for anglers in Washington State!

Name: **Jesse Levine**

Email Address: Jesse.Levine.email@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98122, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 12:42:00 AM**

Comment:

Hi, I greatly support this hatchery policy. I believe this is the only scientifically viable path forward for salmon in Washington. I think the policy details good reforms and commitments to ensure that current and future generations have access to a tremendously important resource. While I wish we could simply undo 150+ years of human impact to the ecosystem that is not viable. As our population grows and climate declines, I believe it is important to have a scientifically backed hands-on management strategy to mitigate systemic issues that are not easily resolved. For everyone and everything that enjoys or depends on this resource we need modern hatcheries

Name: **James Lamont**

Email Address: lamontinpa@wavecable.com

Postal Address: **Port Angeles, WA 98363, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 1:20:00 AM**

Comment:

There are many reasons why our salmon populations are in decline. Despite millions of dollars being spent on habitat restoration for many years, the situation has continued to get worse, not better. In a perfect world, we wouldn't need hatcheries, all salmon would be "wild" salmon, born in a river not a hatchery. But this isn't a perfect world and the conditions affecting salmon 200 years ago will never be replicated, no matter how much money is thrown at the

problem. In my humble opinion, the goals of the “wild fish people” are not realistic or obtainable. The more road blocks (law suits) they throw in the way of hatchery production, the worse the situation becomes. Habitat restoration efforts should continue but a significant increase in hatchery production is critical.

Name: **Sean Taylor**

Email Address: **staylor12345@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Tacoma, WA 98443, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 1:35:00 AM**

Comment:

INCREASE HATCHERY PRODUCTION, EVERYWHERE!

THEN INCREASE FISHING OPPORTUNITY!

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Name: **Phil Fravel**

Email Address: **Pfravel4@outlook.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 1:41:00 AM**

Comment:

Blank in the comment field

Name: **NoName14**

Email Address:

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 1:45:50 AM**

Comment:

To all, Please click on this link and follow the instructions to respond to our WDFW Commission on our newest Hatchery Policy. We now have 6 intense years of hard work to get to this point. We have worked with WDFW, tribes, recreationals, federal government, federal and state legislators to the highest levels to get where we are today. I am sending this to you today in case you did not get this through our voter voice system.

Now we need you to spend a few minutes to simply hit the Click to comment button below. You can read the 5 page policy that you are commenting on through the link below, use some of our info on this, tell your own story, or just simply tell them you agree with moving the new policy on and to please vote for it. We have come to far to let the other side cancel this out as there is a push from the Wild Fish Folks on the back side.

Please send today! If the Wild Fish folks people have more votes to kill this policy, we lose. Lets keep on making more fish as we are not done yet!

Thanks

Ron Garner

Washington State Fisheries Co-Manager Joint Policy

Part 2.PLEASE TAKE ACTION BY OR ON FEB 28 TO SAVE OUR HATCHERIES!!!!

Thank you to all that helped us on the last WDFW Commission policy! We need to do it again! Please contact everyone you know to sign on to move the follow-up Co-Manager Policy forward. We have some different commissioners now than we had when we got the last policy approved. We need to convince them to move forward on this policy. This Joint Co-Manager policy has a very important part as it does not allow a third party to get involved over the top of the tribal and state salmon fisheries, as was done with HSRG. This is very important! We need to get massive support to urge the WDFW commission to vote to move forward on the new policy. The anti-hatchery people are going to come out in force against this policy to try to stop it. We have the handcuffs off now, we need to keep them off. It took 5 years to get through step one of WDFW Commission policy C-3624. We are now on step 2 with the follow-up Joint Co-manager hatchery policy.

We still have some of the same commissioners left that helped us get the last policy accepted. Fisheries are probably going to be more challenging as three commission seats have expired and new commissioners are coming in. We do not know what we are going to get! We need overwhelming support to get this passed now.

This policy will make lawsuits tougher against our hatcheries. The Attorney General's office and WDFW staff are comfortable with this policy as it uses good science and management.

We need the Commission to move this to the SEPA review level. If we cannot achieve this, the process will probably have to start over and most likely will not ever get to this point again.

Here is the new Joint policy for you to read. It's very easy and only 5 pages. Click on the link to read the policy for yourself.<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/comanager-hatchery-policy#comment>

Next click on the link below. Fill out your name and info. Then provide comments asking them to move forward to get to the next step of SEPA review process. You may use some of our comments below or do some of your Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it.

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table.

Policy must include specific language commitment to stakeholder public participation in regional/watershed hatchery plan development with co-managers.

Policy must include specific examples of how and why the co-manager policy might "supersede" Commission Policy C-3624.

Policy must include language that acknowledges state and appropriate/affected tribes will jointly defend hatchery operations, plans and policies from third party lawsuits.

Policy should note that co-managers will conduct a broad based review of genetic criteria currently in use by tribal, state and federal entities for hatchery program management, against current performance data that suggests the criteria has been overly restrictive.

This draft policy makes hatchery “benefits” equal with hatchery “risks” in terms of hatchery management considerations. This is long overdue. Continuing decline in natural production in spite of billions of dollars expended on habitat fixes and mitigation makes it obvious that current hatchery programs must be sustained, and where appropriate, expanded to provide public benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, and reasonable state sport/commercial fisheries and tribal harvest needs.

It needs to be clear, there is a difference between a “natural population” entirely sustained without hatchery supplementation and fish populations that are “ natural origin” with parents that were hatchery origin. These populations should be managed differently with much less restrictions on the latter.

With the above clarifications, the proposed Joint Hatchery Policy Agreement is suitable to undergo further public review through the SEPA process. Please move forward with this.

Name: **Robert Farris**

Email Address: Bob.farris15@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Pateros, WA 98846, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 1:46:00 AM**

Comment:

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Name: **Ronald Wasmund**

Email Address: Vtachy200360x2@aol.com

Postal Address: **Fox Island, WA 98333, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 1:49:00 AM**

Comment:

Keep all the hatchery’s open. It all helps keep the sportsman opportunities for fish higher.

Name: **Rick Nelson**

Email Address: Nelsonrk38@gmail.com

Postal Address: **West Richland, WA 99353, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 2:03:00 AM**

Comment:

Please provide more hatchery salmon and steelhead. Develop a hatchery for spiny ray fish

Name: **Aaron O’Leary**

Email Address: a2theo@gmail.com

Postal Address: **Forks, WA 98331, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 2:17:00 AM**

Comment:

The Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy (C-3624) should move forward. I am in support of the new hatchery policy.

Name: **Kein Kkosiancic**

Email Address: **Kkosiancic@hotmail.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 2:17:00 AM**

Comment:

We need to increase hatchery production in most of our major water basins. Follow the lead of the Quinalt tribe and the state of Oregon by using brood stock from each basin. We need to follow this sound practice to build stronger runs (in some cases save certain runs from extinction) and stand up to organizations that pushed for wild only runs.

Name: **Michael Voorhees**

Email Address: **mikevoorhees7189@gmail.com**

Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98106, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 2:26:00 AM**

Comment:

I support hatcheries throughout all Washington river systems. When done correctly (broodstock programs), the quality of hatchery fish is on par to wild fish. Without hatcheries, we could lose this fragile resource in our rivers and oceans. Not only do hatcheries provide anglers like myself a chance to fish our local rivers, they also provide fish for all west coast fisheries. Please continue funding and expanding our hatcheries in WA.

Name: **John Duthie**

Email Address: **Jduthie342@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Sumner, WA 98390, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 2:31:00 AM**

Comment:

I Agree with moving the co-manager hatchery policy on and therefore please vote for it.

Name: **Dan Myers**

Email Address: **sargentmyers@live.com**

Postal Address: **Ravensdale, WA 98051, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 2:41:00 AM**

Comment:

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Name: **Allison Durbin**
Email Address: **alliquinn18@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Seattle, WA 98168, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 3:01:00 AM**

Comment:

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

Name: **Nancy Mckee**
Email Address: **nmckee7@hotmail.com**
Postal Address: **Wenatchee, WA 98802, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 3:31:00 AM**

Comment:

I am encouraging you to move the Co-Manager policy forward to the SEPA review level. Hatchery production has been severely cut for many years, resulting in fewer opportunities for sport fishermen and the wildlife that depend on salmon as a food source. We have knowledgeable salmon biologists that can advise on a balanced approach between the native and hatchery fish populations and how to ensure they both are thriving. It is time to move the joint policy forward to support continued fishing, economic, and wildlife survival opportunities for our children and grandchildren. Thank you.

Name: **William Pritchard**
Email Address: **Wpritch13@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Covington, WA 98042, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 4:00:00 AM**

Comment:

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Name: **Jody Ivey**
Email Address: **ivey1@centurytel.net**
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 4:26:00 AM**

Comment:

More hatchery fish please

Name: **Samantha Bruegger**
Email Address: **sbruegger@wawildlifefirst.org**
Postal Address: **Brewster, WA 98812, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 4:41:00 AM**

Comment:

This comment form is not accepting attachments. The letter on behalf of the below organizations, with detailed comments was mailed to commission@dfw.wa.gov. (**SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT - Page 113**)

Washington Wildlife First
Wild Fish Conservancy
The Conservation Angler
The Orca Conservancy
The Center for Biological Diversity
Animal Wellness Action
Animal and Earth Advocates
Wild Steelhead Coalition
Center for Humane Economy
Kettle Range Conservation Group
Northwest Animal Rights Network

Name: **Charles Stahley**
Email Address: **Fishreap@gmail.com**
Postal Address: **Vancouver, WA 98686, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 5:05:00 AM**

Comment:

The survival of the wild populations of these fish is dependent on the continuation of hatchery fish. The evidence is all there and although I do agree that we should be doing everything thing we can to enhance the population of wild fish it's became very obvious that removing hatchery fish does nothing to solve the issue and only makes it worse just take the East Fork of the Lewis that had an amazing return of both wild and hatchery fish but once the hatchery fish were removed we have watched the wild population disappear with it. There are also many other examples that this pipe dream of rebuilding wild runs by simply just removing hatchery fish the wind river which hasn't had a hatchery winter steelhead plant in over twenty years yet still doesn't have a very good wild fishery. We need to start applying a different outlook on how to save wild fish by using better hatchery practices like brood stocking to keep supplementing these rivers to keep what fish we do have around without tampering to heavily in their natural genetics and removing this red tape surrounding tampering with wild fish needs to be rolled back before it's to late and we have no options left.

Name: **Jim Ravelli**
Email Address: **Jimra_pdx@yahoo.com**
Postal Address: **Ridgefield, WA 98642, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 3:49:00 PM**

Comment:

I support this policy and ask that it be approved

Name: **Joseph Cammack**
Email Address: **JOEC@JIMSRX.COM**
Postal Address: **Port Angeles, WA 98362, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 6:44:00 PM**

Comment:

I would like for the commission to support the latest hatchery policy. It has a lot of work behind it from both tribal and non-tribal folks. It will be essential to the future of our salmon runs.

Many Thanks,
Joe Cammack, Port Angeles

Name: **Dane Woldseth**
Email Address: dane.woldseth@gmail.com
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 7:37:00 PM**

Comment:

Principle 2 and principle 3 should be combined into one principle: that hatcheries support treaty and non-treaty fishing alike. This would make the policy language more in line with the treaty language and judicial decisions interpreting the same, particularly WA v. WA Comm. Passenger Fishing Vessel Assoc. Moreover, as currently worded principle 2 is duplicative as treaty rights are already dealt with in principle 1.

Name: **Merle Herrett**
Email Address: m_e_h@comcast.net
Postal Address: **Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 9:56:00 PM**

Comment:

Please approve Bill C 3624

Name: **Craig Erickson**
Email Address: G9321@netzero.com
Postal Address: **Snohomish, WA 98290, USA**
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 10:46:00 PM**

Comment:

Please move forward with the new policy to provide hatchery fish co managed by the tribes and WDFW.

Name: **Warren Hazen**
Email Address: warrenhazen@gmail.com
Postal Address:
Date / Time of Comment: **3/1/2023 11:59:21 PM**

Comment:

All I can tell you is the hatchery management program you have now is not working in Willapa bay streams, and rivers. You have some of the poorest strains of salmon and steelhead in the state of Washington in your hatcheries . you have just about wiped out are native/wild stocks of salmon and steelhead. You've allowed the commercial fisherman on Willapa bay to dictate how you were going to run and manage your salmon stocks and if you continue down that road they will destroy what we have left of our native salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. And another thing

Washington Fish And Wildlife and the commission needs to get rid of some of the predators in the Willapa Bay, watershed and eliminate commercial gillnetting, in Willapa Bay watershed to save our wild fish.

Name: **William Baluch**

Email Address: **Wbaluch@u.washington.edu**

Postal Address: **Skokomish, WA 98584, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/2/2023 1:37:00 AM**

Comment:

Policy C-3624 vetted out risks of the new hatchery policy. The joint policy needs to balance out the benefits as well as the risks. It has a lot of positives in it. PLEASE SUPPORT

We cannot continue to blame the hatcheries when the habitat can no longer support naturally spawning fish. If we cannot keep them alive while their habitat is trying to be rebuilt, then why keep spending the millions of dollars if we can't keep them alive to get there. We all agree we need more natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have severely cut hatchery production from 1989 to 2021. The Orca Task Force was developed to save our Southern Resident Killer Whales. Starving Orcas showed there was a problem as we needed more fish to feed them. It's sad that Washington state had to be in front of the world with this problem. We need to secure the joint co-manager hatchery policy and continue to feed the Orcas.

Washington State- WDFW, Tribal, and NOAA have the absolute best salmon biologists in the world. This policy does not allow for another 3rd party that kept hatchery production down beyond what was required by ESA. These biologists will make sure that our salmon are safely cared for both natural spawners and hatchery fish.

We have never had this opportunity to work both sides at the same side of the table. !!

Name: **Richard pelletier**

Email Address: **ricks53@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Edmonds, WA 98026, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/2/2023 1:38:00 AM**

Comment:

Get moving forward with sepa

Name: **Howard Vicars**

Email Address: **Howardvicars@msn.com**

Postal Address: **Federal Way, WA 98001, USA**

Date / Time of Comment: **3/2/2023 2:20:00 AM**

Comment:

I support hatcheries for salmon and steelhead. Please vote for this valuable resource to help maintain our salmon and steelhead.

Thank you

Howard vicars

Name: **Jonathan Stumpf**

Email Address: Jonathan.Stumpf@tu.org

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **3/2/2023 6:29:00 AM**

Comment:

Submitted on behalf of Trout Unlimited. (**SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT - Page 107**)

Name: **Mike Haney**

Email Address: **mamhaney@yahoo.com**

Postal Address:

Date / Time of Comment: **12:00:00 AM**

Comment:

As a 42+ year Washington state resident fishing license holder, I urge the WDFW Commission to move forward on the new state/tribal co-management hatchery policy. Thank you for considering my input. Michael Haney



11018 NE 51st Circle
Vancouver, WA 98682
(360) 425-1555

February 15, 2023

Dr. Kenneth Warheit
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Post Office Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Subject: Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Comments on the Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy

Dear Dr. Warheit:

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) is writing in response to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) February 7, 2023 request for comments on the Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy. As one of the seven regional recovery organizations in Washington State, the LCFRB is charged by state statute with developing and facilitating implementation of a salmon and steelhead recovery plan for the Lower Columbia Region. In that capacity, the LCFRB led the collaborative development of the Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish & Wildlife Subbasin Plan (Recovery Plan) and is now charged with overseeing implementation. In light of the ongoing importance of hatchery and harvest reform in the state and federally adopted Recovery Plan, we offer the following comments for your consideration.

We appreciate the Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy's emphasis on Tribal Treat Rights and established legal management and decision-making processes. Managing fisheries and hatcheries to maintain and protect Tribal Treaty Rights is absolutely of paramount importance. As part of its broader mandate relating to non-tribal hatchery production and fisheries, however, WDFW has also committed to work proactively to implement adopted recovery plans and achieve their associated goals and targets. While that broader perspective is reflected in the existing Hatchery Policy C-3624 to some degree, it is absent in the proposed policy. When compared to the existing Hatchery Policy C-3624, the draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy:

- Does not establish conservation of natural resources and recovery of depressed salmon and steelhead as the highest priority commitment;
- Strongly emphasizes benefits of hatchery programs but does not provide a commensurate policy platform for acknowledging or proactively managing risks;
- Calls for monitoring and evaluation, but lacks reference to specific science-based and objective metrics for evaluating program impacts, benefits and/or success;

- Does not require alignment of the purposes, goals, and objectives of the policy, and any changes resulting from implementing its provisions, with state and federally adopted recovery and rebuilding plans;
- Lacks a commitment to coordinate in any way with recovery organizations or the GSRO, except in the context of securing funding;
- Constrains the potential for WDFW to independently use best available science and associated management tools to address management needs specific to the State; and,
- Does not include any form of a transparent and robust structured decision-making process.

We greatly appreciate WDFW’s ongoing efforts in the Lower Columbia Region to align hatchery and harvest management with both the Recovery Plan and the Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries Plan (LCFRB & WDFW 2017) goals and targets. However, we view the absence of principles like those above as a departure from WDFW’s commitments as a recovery partner, especially when considered in the context of both fishery and hatchery policy shifts that have taken place since 2018. The above points reflect key elements of Policy C-3624 that should be retained in any policy update. We would not support any policy update that does not address them.

Attachment A includes more detailed comments on the Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 425-1553 or via email at smanlow@lcfwb.gen.wa.us.

Sincerely,



Steve Manlow
Executive Director, LCFRB

cc: Barbara Baker, Chair, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
Molly Linville, Vice-Chair, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
Kelley Susewind, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bryce Glaser, Regional Fish Program Manager, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Erik Neatherlin, Governors Salmon Recovery Office

Attachment A – LCFRB Comments on Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy



Attachment-A

LCFRB Comments on Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy

General Comments:

Lower Columbia Recovery Plan Planning and Implementation Framework:

Large scale salmon and steelhead hatchery production has been occurring for over a century in the Lower Columbia Region and broader Columbia Basin, and was one of the key factors that contributed to listing of salmon and steelhead under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). To address these impacts, the LCFRB collaborated with WDFW to develop the Lower Columbia Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries Plan (WDFW & LCFRB, 2017) (CSF Plan), which is now being implemented. The goal of the CSF Plan is to support efforts to return natural origin salmon and steelhead to healthy and harvestable levels, while sustaining important Tribal, commercial and recreational fisheries. The CSF Plan sets forth specific strategies and actions that WDFW has committed to implement in operating its Lower Columbia hatcheries and in managing related fisheries. We do not view those recovery commitments as something that can be simply dismissed with constantly shifting agency policies. Rather, those commitments should be honored and reflected in agency policy updates.

Substantive progress has been made on hatchery and harvest reform in the Lower Columbia Region, and hatcheries are playing an important role in both sustaining fisheries and supporting recovery of species such as spring Chinook and chum. However, excess numbers of hatchery fish on the spawning grounds remains a key limiting factor for many of our ESA listed populations, especially tule fall Chinook and coho. It is therefore important to sustain and adaptively manage CSF Plan implementation and continue to work proactively and explicitly toward achieving Recovery Plan targets. We believe the Governor's recently adopted Statewide Strategy Update also demands nothing short of this.

Hatchery Policy Shifts:

The Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy must be viewed in context of a longer-term shift in state hatchery policy that has sequentially reduced recovery emphasis over the last several years. Adoption of Policy C-3619 in 2009 represented a strong response to ESA listings and established science based and objective standards for managing hatcheries in a manner that prioritized recovery needs. That policy was never fully implemented, and in 2018 the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) suspended implementation of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) standards that formed the technical foundation of that policy. Those standards were not reinstated, despite WDFW and the Washington Academy of Sciences reviews that confirmed validity of HSRG metrics in evaluating hatchery programs and their effectiveness. Policy C-3619 was subsequently replaced with Policy C-3624, which diluted recovery emphasis by greatly broadening purpose statements. However, it still called for development of Hatchery Management Plans (HMPs) that were to be supported by a structured, science-based decision-making process. That process was to also include establishment of performance standards and indicators, and consideration of ESU-wide plans, adopted recovery plans, and sustainability plans. Implementation of Policy C-3624 has been occurring for less than one Chinook salmon life cycle. Yet as drafted, the Draft Co-Manager Hatchery

Policy would largely replace it, despite its lack of emphasis on addressing broader salmon and steelhead recovery needs in a transparent and collaborative manner. We are therefore concerned that this narrowly constructed policy could undermine collaborative recovery efforts such as those currently being implemented in the Lower Columbia Region, and could potentially reset hatchery policy to that which existed prior to Policy C-3619.

Purpose:

It is unclear whether this policy would apply to hatchery facilities below Bonneville Dam in the Lower Columbia Region. As written, the parties are referred to as co-managers both collectively and independently. Thus, an independent state managed facility could be viewed as a co-manager facility subject to the policy. Also, the first footnote on page 1 associates co-managed facilities with the Tribes' and WDFW's joint management efforts pursuant to their concurrent fisheries jurisdiction. As such, it appears that this policy would also apply to WDFW managed facilities below Bonneville Dam as they are integrally tied to joint fisheries jurisdiction and decision-making processes. Clarification is needed as to specifically which facilities this policy would apply to.

Scope of Policy:

This section notes that any specific hatchery program plans that are consistent with the Co-Manager Hatchery Policy will supersede direction under Policy C-3624. However, as noted above, when compared to the existing policy C-3624, the draft Co-manager Policy:

- Does not establish conservation of natural resources and recovery of depressed salmon and steelhead as the highest priority commitment.
- Strongly emphasizes benefits of hatchery programs but does not provide a commensurate policy platform for acknowledging or proactively managing risks;
- Calls for monitoring and evaluation, but lacks reference to specific science-based and objective metrics for evaluating program impacts, benefits and/or success;
- Does not require alignment of the purposes, goals, and objectives of the policy, and any changes resulting from implementing its provisions, with state and federally adopted recovery and rebuilding plans;
- Lacks a commitment to coordinate in any way with recovery organizations or the GSRO, except in the context of securing funding;
- Constrains the potential for WDFW to independently use best available science and associated management tools to address management needs specific to the State; and,
- Does not include any form of a transparent and robust structured decision-making process.

The above points encompass key elements of Policy C-3624 that should be retained in any future policy.

Guiding Principles and Policy Positions:

This section places evaluation of benefits and risks in the context of the explicit purposes and principles expressed in the policy and individual agreed-to hatchery management plans. As noted above, the principles and purposes expressed in the policy omit many important recovery considerations and are focused largely on importance of producing hatchery fish to support Treaty Right fishing obligations and nontreaty fisheries. The policy foundation is structured around prior court cases and management agreements, which are indeed foundational to co-manager processes. However, the result is a narrowly constructed policy that defines WDFW's role in the context of legal comanager processes and mandates, rather than as a collaborative and committed partner in other state recovery forums.

Principles 1 and 2:

We fully concur with these statements.

Principle 3:

While this statement is accurate, it should be coupled with a statement that the broader goal is to work toward returning all ESA-listed salmon and steelhead populations to healthy and harvestable levels that meet Tribal, commercial and recreational fishery needs. That principle is foundational to adopted recovery plans and efforts.

Principle 4:

We strongly support development of hatchery plans at the regional level, as that is critical to understanding interrelationships between hatchery programs and issues such carrying capacity and straying impacts. We are also supportive of the proposed All-H approach for development of hatchery plans. However, details on required plan elements are lacking entirely, which contrasts starkly with Policy C-3624.

Providing prey for Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) and buffering pinniped an avian predation should not be used independently as rationale for sustaining or increasing hatchery production, without a broader evaluation of both risks and benefits. Per the Governors recommendations, hatchery production for SRKW should only occur if deemed consistent with recovery plans and available habitat, and done in concert with significantly increased habitat protection and restoration measures. To date, while production has been increased and is now called for in both hatchery and fishery policies, the additional requirements called for in the Governors policy statement have not been met, and efficacy of efforts to increase SRKW prey has not been critically evaluated. While predator buffering has been demonstrated through several studies, it is important to also consider whether documented benefits are outweighed by ecological and biological risks to natural origin fish. To our knowledge that has not been evaluated either.

We appreciate the call for sizing hatchery programs and releases in a manner that considers ecosystem constraints, as the cumulative impact of hatchery production on natural origin salmon and steelhead productivity and estuarine carrying capacity in the Columbia River basin has not been evaluated. This is especially important given hatchery fish currently account for over 2/3 of the average return.

This section calls for a balancing of harvest opportunities, cultural, economic, conservation, and ecological benefits with potential genetic and ecological risks to natural-origin salmonid populations, and environmental conditions such as habitat degradation. However, there is no reference to how this balancing will occur, or establishment of relative priorities across these considerations. As noted above, conservation of natural resources and recovery of depressed salmon and steelhead should be clearly established as a high priority commitment for WDFW. In addition, a transparent and structured decision-making process that includes robust risk assessment should be incorporated.

This section references “hatchery program plans”, but it is not clear whether this is referring to Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs), or some new yet to be defined plan. Complying with ESA requirements associated with HGMPs is not the same as proactively working to achieve recovery plan targets. The former is focused on avoiding “jeopardy” determinations and maximizing harvest and hatchery production within ESA thresholds, whereas the latter is working proactively to recover ESA listed species to healthy and harvest levels, in light of population-specific goals. We therefore encourage

incorporation of policy statements that call for alignment of hatchery plans with the goals, objectives, and threat reduction and productivity improvement targets identified in adopted recovery plans, and consulting with regional recovery organizations during plan development.

Principle 5:

This section identifies monitoring and evaluation of both hatchery and natural origin fish and their habitats, but only in the context of the goals established in yet to be defined hatchery plans. WDFW's monitoring associated with hatchery programs is also critical to evaluating progress toward achieving broader recovery goals and targets across the state. This language should be broadened to include monitoring to evaluate progress toward adopted recovery and sustainability plan goals as well.

This section appears to limit WDFW's use of procedure manuals or evaluation tools to only those that are jointly developed or agreed to by the co-managers. This may unduly constrain WDFW's use of management tools such as mass-marking, which is called for in the Recovery Plan but may not be accepted by all co-managers. WDFW should retain the ability to apply best available science and associated tools in hatchery management to meet potentially differing needs.

Principle 6:

We support the strong call for financial support to ensure hatcheries are effectively managed and monitored into the future. However, this section again focuses on securing resources for hatchery management largely in the context legal co-manager agreements and requirements, not broader recovery needs, which require equally important financial support.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review:

The LCFRB believes that any changes in policy direction that affects future implementation of the Recovery Plan should be conducted in a manner that provides for thorough, comprehensive and transparent public review. The public notice indicates that this policy will undergo an additional State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) public comment period. If the Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy moves forward substantively as written, we believe that issuance of a "Determination of Significance" (DS) and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be warranted.

Conclusion:

From the LCFRB's regional recovery perspective, it would make more sense to retain Policy C-3624, streamline the document while retaining important elements noted above, but add an addendum that addresses additional co-management considerations and responsibilities that may be lacking in its current form. For the reasons noted, we do not support abandoning Policy C-3624 and replacing it with the narrowly constructed Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy as currently drafted.



March 1, 2023

Dr. Kenneth Warheit
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Sent via website to WDFW and email to: Commission@dfw.wa.gov

RE: Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy

Dr. Warheit:

Trout Unlimited (TU) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy.

With over 300,000 members and supporters – including 5,000 members in the state of Washington—and over 250 staff, TU is North America's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection, conservation, and restoration of cold-water fish and their watersheds. Our strength is derived from our grassroots members and volunteers working together with our staff toward the common goal of ensuring resilient fish populations for future generations. TU is dedicated to using the best available science to guide our efforts, and we have the benefit of applying the expertise of our staff fisheries scientists to support policy and science efforts requiring careful analysis.

As an organization dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North America's cold-water fisheries and their watersheds, we provide the following comments for your consideration on this draft co-manager hatchery policy.

With many populations of salmon and steelhead in Washington listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and many stocks recently experiencing some of their worst returns on record, it is of the utmost importance that this new policy places a priority on conservation and recovery of these stocks. Accordingly, and like the concerns we addressed during the shift in policy from the 2009 Hatchery Reform Policy (C-3619) to the current 2021

Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy (C-3624), we strongly encourage you to uphold the intention of the current policy, and not abandon what remains of the science-based hatchery reform principles, which is fundamental to the WDFW's commitment to policies that enhance wild fish recovery objectives and are designed to support long-term recreational, tribal, and commercial fisheries into the future.

We appreciate and support the considerations laid out in this new policy for Tribal Treaty Rights, as it is of the utmost importance that their harvestable rights are maintained with hatchery production, as necessary. However, this new policy seems to shift even further away from what science-based principles remain of 2009's C-3619 in the current 2021 C-3624.

General concerns include:

- Conservation and recovery appear as secondary concerns in the draft policy, which focuses on the benefits of hatcheries with little acknowledgement of the risks
- Lack of specifics around the goals and objectives of programs, including what Monitoring and Evaluation metrics will be followed
- Lack of clarity around hatchery thresholds and parameters in existing agency management plans and recovery plans, and how they will apply to this draft policy
- Lack of commitment to establish or continue coordination with regional recovery organizations, including the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
- Lack of clarity about scope of policy, including tribes impacted, and impacts to existing hatchery management guidance documents in regions where co-management does not exist, including Willapa Bay and Columbia River below Bonneville Dam

Moving along, the '**Purpose**' statement includes this language:

Hatcheries are primarily operated to preserve, reintroduce or supplement, natural production that contributes to both the spawning production of those populations and augments harvest.

This statement is misleading as hatcheries are primarily to augment harvest, with far fewer programs designed specifically for conservation or to 'preserve, reintroduce or supplement natural production.' This statement must be reworded to more accurately reflect the primary purpose of hatcheries.

Under the '**Guiding Principles and Policy Positions**' there are considerations for and the integration of other state management plans and recovery plans notably absent, as previously mentioned, and we believe this also limits the ability of the WDFW to support, engage, and participate as true partner in recovery of salmon and steelhead stocks.

Additionally, here are detailed considerations for each individual Principle:

Principle 1:

We strongly support a recommitment to follow all court orders and co-management agreements, including the re-appointment by the court of the currently absent third-party, independent scientist to the Fisheries Advisory Board, as mandated in *United States v. Washington*, 459 F. Supp. 1020 (1978). Filling this vacancy is also relevant to the process recommended under 'Dispute Resolution.'

Principle 2:

We support this statement.

Principle 3:

This statement should first include the foundational goals of working to restore depressed runs and recover ESA listed stocks to harvestable numbers, where applicable, and only in a manner consistent with those goals, continue to then provide harvestable fish for recreational and commercial fisheries.

Principle 4:

This principle states that hatcheries should have clearly defined goals, without stating what these goals might be. This is far too vague. Currently, hatchery goals are established solely around release numbers and program type, whether that is a segregated or integrated program or harvest or conservation program. In some cases, certain state management documents provide goals for impact thresholds to wild populations.

There need to be goals specific to adult production that balances risks with desired benefits. This could include but is not limited to:

- Number of adults to each fishery and/or on the spawning grounds
- Balancing wild fish in the broodstock against mining risk to the wild population and straying to other watersheds

We support the development of the proposed all-H approach in hatchery management plans, as this is not done in current HGMPs, which are merely ESA permits designed to ensure that hatchery production does not result in the jeopardy of natural-origin stocks. But required details and elements in these plans must be included in this policy.

This next section looks merely at the benefits of hatchery production, and instead should balance ecosystem risks *and* benefits. For instance, hatchery production for Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) should be informed by science and not based on available capacity at hatchery facilities as is currently happening. Spring and summer Chinook are the primary limiting factors for recovery of SRKWs, yet the majority of production for SRKWs has been focused on fall Chinook, despite regular surpluses of 10,000 to 30,000 adults at some facilities (WDFW Hatchery Escapement Reports).

Also, listing “*buffering of pinniped and avian predation*” is misleading, as hatchery production has also been shown to attract predators to wild fish, showing that hatchery Coho releases are linked with increased predation on wild steelhead smolts (Malick 2023). Additionally, nutrients that just cycle to the hatchery are not going to help freshwater environment. Natural spawning processes that provide food and nutrients over a longer timeframe are far more effective. However, in absence of abundant natural spawning populations and processes, nutrient enhancement could be prioritized over selling fish to a fish buyer.

We support the concept that hatchery program plans should consider how natural-origin salmonids support ecosystem function and should size the hatchery program and time of hatchery releases in a manner that considers ecosystem constraints, with recognition of changing environmental and climate conditions. However, for this approach to be effective, we need to first understand the carrying capacity of the watersheds and how the hatchery releases affect the carrying capacity and productivity of the ecosystems into which they are released, such as Puget Sound and the Columbia River estuary. Studies to fully determine the carrying capacity and impacts of hatchery releases have not yet been conducted and directives to do so should be included in this principle. Additionally, HGMPs do not sufficiently account for this metric and as such this needs to be developed in future Hatchery Management Plans (HMP).

However, as stated earlier, hatchery program plans should consider risks, as a well as benefits. In some instances, hatchery production can contribute to productive natural-spawning populations that are locally adaptive, and genetically diverse to maintain adaptability, but there are also risks that need to be considered and described, as this language infers all hatcheries only provide benefits to natural populations. For instance, the purpose of segregated hatcheries does not fit into that description at all, as those programs are solely designed to separate hatchery and natural spawning fish.

Certain instances in this section use vague language that needs to be replaced, including the following:

- *Hatchery plans should consider how hatchery operations can maintain or enhance the genetic diversity and adaptability of hatchery broodstock.*
 - ‘Should’ must be replaced with either ‘must’ or ‘will’
- *Hatchery program goals should strive to balance harvest opportunities, cultural, economic, conservation, and ecological benefits with potential genetic and ecological risks to natural-origin salmonid populations, and environmental conditions such as habitat degradation. Risks and benefits reflect perspectives, values, and biological factors that should be considered in both social and ecological contexts.*
 - ‘Should’ must be replaced with either ‘must’ or ‘will’

- There is endless literature that shows ‘genetic and ecological risks’ are not potential. Remove ‘potential.’ Additionally, benefits are based on social values while risks must be based on scientific information.

Finally, there must be clarity around what a ‘hatchery program plan’ is, whether that is referring to a HGMP or a HMP. HGMPs are ESA permits that are designed to ensure hatcheries do not pose an extinction risk and are not sufficient to ensure recovery, detail the needs of an M&E program, balance the risks to natural populations or in lieu of the All-H approach as described above.

Principle 5:

This section clearly establishes joint coordination among co-managers for the monitoring and evaluation of hatchery programs, including the use of models and evaluation tools. This could seriously limit effective modeling of hatchery risks if co-managers do not agree to the use of the models or they do not have the capacity to collaborate on modeling efforts. Additionally, this could restrict WDFW’s intent to use the best available science and/or new methodologies as they emerge.

Principle 6:

We are concerned with the language that states the co-managers will jointly work, along with Governor’s office, to inform the legislature of the legal requirements for hatchery production levels, using this to prioritize funding. While production levels in places like the Columbia River basin are often dictated by mitigation agreements, in many other parts of the state they typically are not and legal obligations for hatchery production may not exist. Additionally, in many cases mitigation-related releases levels are in conflict with conservation measures for rebuilding salmon and steelhead abundance (Marston and Huff 2022).

Overall, we are generally concerned with the development of a new hatchery policy and would urge WDFW to consider not abandoning C-3624, but instead work to update the current policy with a new section that clearly addresses co-management responsibilities, agreements, and processes. It is our belief that if the current policy is abandoned, we are concerned hatchery management in the state will shift back toward management guidelines used before the 2009 Hatchery Reform Policy was implemented, in a management period when the full set of risks to natural-origin populations from hatchery programs were not taken into full consideration.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of these comments and are happy to answer any questions you may have about our concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Stumpf
Washington Advocate – Wild Steelhead Initiative
Trout Unlimited

Gary Marston
Science Advisor – Wild Steelhead Initiative
Trout Unlimited

References:

- Malick, M.J., M.E. Moore and B.A. Berejikian. 2022. Higher early marine mortality of steelhead associated with releases of hatchery coho but not Chinook salmon. *Marine and Coastal Fisheries: Dynamics, Management, and Ecosystem Science* 14:e10225
- Marston, G. and A. Huff. 2022. Modeling hatchery influence: estimates of gene flow and pHOS for Washington State coastal Steelhead hatchery programs. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Olympia, Washington.

March 1, 2023

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Delivered electronically to: commission@dfw.wa.gov and kenneth.warheit@dfw.wa.gov

Re: Comments on Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy

Dear Members of the Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Thank you for inviting preliminary comments on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW)'s [draft co-manager hatchery policy](#) (draft policy) in advance of initiating review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The undersigned organizations write to urge you to be thoughtful and transparent in the process of considering this policy, and to ensure that WDFW is not making commitments that it will be unable to meet.

Our foremost concern about the draft policy is the lack of clarity about how it relates to [the Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy \(C-3624\)](#), which the Commission adopted in 2021 after lengthy discussion and consideration. Specifically, it is unclear what the draft policy means when it indicates that it will "supersede some or all" of the existing policy. Because WDFW has failed to explain how these two policies interrelate, it is impossible to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the draft policy. Indeed, when reading these policies side by side, it is unclear what the guiding principles and foundational objectives are for the management of Washington's hatchery programs. For example, as it reads now, the draft co-manager policy appears to compromise or omit fundamental commitments in the current policy to conserve and recover wild salmon and steelhead. The discussion during recent Commission meetings only increased this confusion, as it appears that even the Commissioners have widely divergent interpretations of the impact that the policy will have on current hatchery management.

WDFW must clarify how the co-manager policy will supersede or change current policy before it can conduct a meaningful SEPA analysis, before the public can offer informed comment, and before the Commission can make an educated decision. Before this process goes any further, we ask for WDFW to provide the public with a redline of C-3624 that shows precisely what provisions would be superseded by the co-manager policy, and to explain and justify any changes in policy direction. This clarity is essential for the public, the Commission, and SEPA staff to adequately understand the significance, reach, and impact of the new policy.

Given WDFW's long history of failing to meet its prior commitments regarding the operation of state fisheries, we also have grave doubts about whether WDFW can live up to the promises it is making to its

tribal co-managers. As part of the hatchery reform policy approved in 2009, WDFW committed to developing Hatchery Action Implementation Plans and submitting them for SEPA review. This never happened. Indeed, WDFW's [own 2020 assessment of the implementation of the 2009 hatchery policy](#) noted enormous gaps in implementation and highlighted the fact that WDFW failed to even collect the monitoring data required to evaluate the environmental effects of its hatchery programs. Even now, no plan has been put in place to collect that necessary monitoring information. As part of the hatchery policy approved in 2021, WDFW again committed to developing hatchery plans and reviewing them through SEPA, but nearly two years later, it has made no apparent progress toward fulfilling that commitment. Astoundingly, the state has never conducted a SEPA review of the environmental impact of the increases in hatchery production that it initiated in 2018, either as a whole or as to any individual hatchery. Nevertheless, WDFW continues to implement these production increases and incur the associated risks to the state's wild fish populations, while providing empty assurances that environmental review will occur at some later point in time.

WDFW leadership and the Commission have never fully acknowledged nor adequately addressed these prior broken promises. Prior to making additional commitments, especially with Tribal Nations, WDFW should conduct an independent critical review of its failure to honor its prior commitments. Most importantly, it must conduct a scientific analysis to evaluate what actions are necessary to reverse the decline of Washington's wild fish population, especially in the face of the increased risk and uncertainty created by climate change. Without such an examination, WDFW will just continue shooting in the dark, failing to evaluate the impacts of its actions before it takes them or to gather the data necessary to understand what it has already done.

Our concerns are compounded by the lack of transparency in the process of developing the draft policy. When it comes to the recovery of threatened and endangered fish populations, the public has the right to expect clear and open communication regarding desired outcomes and objectives and the information used in the decision-making process. The closed-door negotiations that led to this draft policy prevent informed decision-making by the Commissioners who were not directly involved, preclude informed public comment, and degrade trust between constituents and resource managers. It is essential that the co-managers prioritize transparency in the development of hatchery policies and in the management of fish hatcheries, so that their respective constituents can evaluate the results.

Based on the limited information that is before us now, the draft policy appears to deprioritize the conservation and recovery of locally adapted wild fish populations. It seems to set the stage for increased hatchery production and ignore an important and well-documented paradox: excessive hatchery production undermines wild fish recovery, and eventually the hatcheries themselves. To have success in the long term, hatcheries rely on wild fish to provide genetic diversity. Without thoughtful hatchery production that is guided by science, hatcheries will undermine the fitness and reproductive success of wild populations, which in turn will jeopardize the continuance of the hatcheries themselves.

We fully support the goal of collaborating with tribal co-managers to reach agreed objectives, but Washington must avoid making more commitments to Tribal Nations that it cannot meet. Please be thoughtful and transparent before proceeding with the draft policy, so that WDFW can work with its co-managers toward a fish policy that is scientifically sound and sustainable for future generations.

Respectfully,



Emma Helverson
Executive Director
Wild Fish Conservancy



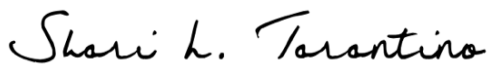
David Moskowitz
Executive Director
The Conservation Angler



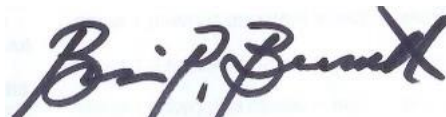
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Center for Biological Diversity



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Suzanne Lieberman
Washington State Director
Center for a Humane Economy &
Animal Wellness Action



Hannah Thompson-Garner
Director of Advocacy and Mission
Advancement
Northwest Animal Rights Network