

**Annotated Agenda**  
*MAFAC Meeting - Portland, Oregon*  
*April 25, 2016*

**1. Title of Discussion:**       **Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans:  
Achieving Compliance under the Endangered Species Act  
and under the National Environmental Policy Act for Tribal,  
Federal and state hatcheries**

**2. Presenter:**                 Rob Jones, Chief, Anadromous Production and Inland Fisheries  
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region

**3. Objective/Purpose (Updates and Informational)**

Summarize the movement to reform salmon and steelhead hatcheries and update the status of hatchery compliance under the Endangered Species Act.

**4. Background/Synopsis:**

As we monitor and investigate the performance of hatchery programs and based on the accumulating body of scientific information, it is increasingly apparent that artificial propagation entails risks as well as rewards for salmon conservation. It is NMFS' experience that hatchery programs can reduce the risks they pose to salmon and steelhead survival and recovery and be compliant with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when they include certain 'reforms'. NMFS has developed and published a series of documents to guide these hatchery reforms and the agency works with state, tribal, and federal hatchery operators to identify and tailor hatchery reform(s) for particular situations and circumstances.

Under the ESA's provisions and under NMFS' issuance of ESA Section 4(d) rules, "take" of a species listed as threatened or endangered is prohibited unless NMFS determines that the proposed action (in this case, the operation of a hatchery program) meets the standards for an exemption. NMFS uses an application or form called a Hatchery Genetic Management Plan (HGMP), to determine if an individual hatchery program meets these exemption standards. There are 331 hatchery programs in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California for which NMFS has, or expects to receive HGMPs. At this time, 51 hatchery programs have HGMPs for which NMFS has issued exemptions under the ESA, and another 134 are in various stages of completion. Another 16 HGMPs have been determined ready for consultation under the ESA, and 78 more have been submitted and are waiting NMFS review pending the availability of staff resources. In the near future, NMFS expects to receive another 52 HGMPs that are new or that are being resubmitted, with changes, for additional review and consideration.

In FY15, NMFS' West Coast Region staffing resources for reviewing HGMPs included 13 full time employees and 0.75 contractors. NMFS has increased funding for HGMP reviews and will have four new staff, a supervisor, and additional contracting resources available starting in the spring of 2016.

**5. Action to be taken by MAFAC**

No action requested, at this time.