

Idaho Department of Fish and Game - Hatchery Administration Program
Statement of Work – FY2013

FY2013 OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Provide management direction and oversight to research, hatchery, and management programs associated with the LSRCP hatchery program designed to: 1) provide sport-fishing opportunities for salmon and steelhead and 2) to conserve and enhance naturally produced anadromous fish.

Report: During federal fiscal year 2013, IDFG staff coordinated with federal and state agencies and Indian tribes regarding Columbia basin and in-state anadromous salmon and steelhead fisheries, developed technical and planning information to support instate fishery implementation, developed technical analysis and provided technical and policy coordination for Columbia River fishery management, and developed documents and technical reviews to support ESA-related processes such as recovery planning and biological opinions. Sport fisheries that harvested LSRCP-origin Chinook salmon occurred in the Clearwater River drainage and the lower Salmon and South Fork Salmon rivers. Sport fisheries that harvested LSRCP-origin steelhead occurred in the Clearwater River drainage and the Salmon River drainage.

Objective 2: Develop an annual Statement of Work (SOW) and operating budget for the Department Hatchery Administration Program and submit to LSRCP office by June 15.

Report: The Statement of Work and FY2014 budget request were prepared and submitted to LSRCP in June 2013.

Objective 3: Contribute to the development of Clearwater and Salmon River Annual Operating Plans (AOP).

Report: The Department continued to play a role in the development of AOPs. IDFG coordinated reformatting of the Salmon River AOP and development of a web-based editing and updating procedure for that document.

Objective 4: Provide technical and policy analysis for and input into intergovernmental river management forums designed to enhance the survival of spawning, rearing, and migrating salmon and steelhead.

Report: IDFG staff worked with the State of Idaho and federal cooperators to implement the Memorandum of Agreement entered into between the State of Idaho and the FCRPS Action Agencies (Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation). IDFG staff also collaborated with tribal, state and federal agencies on fish passage and life cycle modeling efforts.

IDFG staff participated in several regional forums to provide technical comments, adaptive management recommendations, and policy support to enhance survival of Idaho spring and summer juvenile migrants and returning adults. Participation in key governmental forums included Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC), Technical Management Team (TMT), and various Corps of Engineer committees (such as System Configuration Team [SCT]). Technical and policy support was provided to the State Implementation Team (IT) member. Substantial coordination occurred with the Region's states, tribes, and federal agencies to develop common strategies for adult and juvenile salmon and steelhead migration survival during this reporting period.

Objective 5: Provide technical and policy analysis and input into federal recovery and/or programmatic procedures including NEPA for Snake Basin hatchery programs, NOAA Fisheries recovery plan development, including ESA permitting associated with Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMP) and Fishery Management and Evaluation Plans (FMEP).

Report: IDFG staff developed documents and technical reviews to support ESA-related processes such as recovery planning and biological opinions. Staff coordinated with state and federal agencies and Indian tribes for the development of eight HGMPs associated with LSRCF Chinook salmon and steelhead hatchery programs. IDFG staff completed the coordination and development of FMEPs for salmon and steelhead sport fisheries and submitted those FMEPs to NMFS requesting NMFS approval of the fishery plans and limits on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 9(a)(1) take prohibitions as allowed under NMFS 4(d) Rule Limit 4.

Objective 6: Provide technical and policy analysis for and input into U.S. v Oregon and other pertinent multi-state, federal, and tribal forums designed to resolve fishery management issues or to develop and implement recovery measures, including National Marine Fisheries Service forums, particularly implementation of the Federal Columbia River Power System and Upper Snake River Biological Opinions and related forums, including hatchery and fishery reviews.

Report: The long-term Columbia River Fish Management Plan (CRFMP) that was completed during the FY2008 reporting period continued to be implemented during this contract period; that implementation resulted in continuous coordination and communication with state, tribal and federal parties to U.S. v Oregon for fish production and fishery management. Other tribal coordination occurred to share harvest and run size information and develop options for utilization of hatchery adults excess to hatchery brood stock needs during the contract period. Staff oversight of hatchery programs included brood stock management, distribution of excess fish for ceremonial or subsistence by tribes or non-profit food banks, outplants of adults for natural production, and communication and reporting. IDFG staff participated in the activities of the U.S. v Oregon Technical and Production advisory committees. Communication was conducted with technical and policy parties of U.S. v Oregon with substantial effort directed at state and tribal fishery management plans and thirteen hatchery and genetic management plans.

Objective 7: Conduct salmon and steelhead sport fisheries and monitoring that maximize

angling opportunities within the constraints of natural and listed fish conservation and recovery.

Report: The Anadromous Fish Manager (Manager) and the Anadromous Fish Coordinator (Coordinator) provided management, direction, and oversight to implement a selective fishery for hatchery steelhead and fall Chinook salmon during the fall (August – December), for hatchery steelhead in spring (January – April) seasons and for spring/summer Chinook salmon in Idaho. The Manager also assisted with technical products related to run size forecast and listed/unlisted composition in coordination with the ESA coordinator and other staff. Substantial instate management coordination was conducted to develop and implement monitoring for harvest share and wild fish/ESA impacts, particularly in the spring/summer Chinook fisheries where managers had to insure that natural spawning was maximized and hatchery brood stock goals met while providing angler access to hatchery fish in expanded and new fishing areas. Fishery implementation also required significant coordination and communication with National Marine Fisheries Service for fishery authorization and in-season modification and reporting.

Objective 8: Coordinate state fishery management activities and policies among state, tribal, and federal management entities of Idaho and the Columbia Basin.

Report: Internal coordination meetings were held periodically and a state-wide anadromous program coordination meeting was held in January of 2013 for communication and strategic planning. The winter meeting included statewide anadromous management task prioritization, facilitated by the Coordinator. This effort included research, management and hatchery staffs' participation. Staff participated in annual pre-season coordination meetings, inseason weekly teleconferences, and post season wrap-up and summarization meetings with the Shoshone-Bannock and Nez Perce Tribes,LSRCP, USFWS, ODFW, WDFW, IPC and NOAA fisheries. Staff also participated in the Snake River fall Chinook coordination group. Other coordination concerning fishery management activities and policies include meetings with the Northwest Sportfish Industry Association, Oregon and Washington fish and wildlife agencies, Columbia River sportfish advisory group (Oregon and Washington), NOAA Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Objective 9: Educate the public and policy makers regarding the importance of salmon and steelhead resources and sport fishing opportunity.

Report: Public education about aspects of Chinook salmon and steelhead fisheries was provided via agency website, press releases, and news media.

Objective 10: The Department is establishing improved oversight of hatchery operations through creation of complex manager positions which will supervise three to five facilities grouped by location or type of production. Supervision of hatchery managers will shift from centralized Bureau staff to more regionalized complex managers, placing supervisors in closer proximity and limiting the number of facilities for which each supervisor is responsible. This will increase the level of supervisors' site-specific knowledge, promote more regular communication among

staff, and allow supervisors to focus on improving the efficiency and consistency of hatchery operations. Complex managers will report to the Fish Production Program Manager, Gary Byrne. At least one complex manager position will be added in the calendar year 2013 performance period. Four months of the position's time is identified in the Program Oversight Project Budget, representing proportional partial funding by LSRCP of the annualized position cost.

Report: IDFG established three new hatchery complex manager positions during FY2013. Two of these positions supervise LSRCP hatcheries, and are funded by LSRCP proportionately to their duties. The Salmon River Hatchery Complex Manager, Gene McPherson, supervises McCall Fish Hatchery (LSRCP), Sawtooth Fish Hatchery (LSRCP), Rapid River Fish Hatchery (IPC), and Pahsimeroi Fish Hatchery (IPC). The Oxbow Fish Hatchery (IPC), under the direct supervision of the Rapid River Hatchery manager, is also in the Salmon River Complex. The Magic Valley Hatchery Complex Manager, Rick Lowell, supervises Magic Valley Steelhead Hatchery (LSRCP), Niagara Springs Fish Hatchery (IPC), and Hagerman State Fish Hatchery (IDFG, License/DJ-funded).

Objective 11: Provide a written Hatchery Administration Program annual report to the LSRCP office by December 31.

Report: This document serves as the FY2013 annual report.