

Three issues over the Mitchell Act administration that could come up at the Seattle PFMC Meeting

FY 2003 Funding:

- * Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has already written to the Admiral concerning the timeliness of the provision of Mitchell Act funds for FY 2003. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the Yakama Tribe are likely to follow suit citing similar delays in receiving their FY 2003 allocations. Even though the fiscal year began on October 1, 2002, they have had to cover costs incurred to-date with their own funds and are waiting to be reimbursed when a Cooperative Agreement is signed. Currently, only the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have received their FY 2003 Mitchell Act funding.
- * Because the FY 2003 budget was not signed until February 2003 and the final allocation to the NW Region didn't occur until April 2003, Cooperative Agreement applications weren't submitted to Grants Management Division until May-June, 2003.

FY 2004 Funding:

At a Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) meeting last year, we were asked why NOAA Fisheries does not ask for enough funding to at least maintain status quo programs. That will come up again this week at the PFMC meeting in Seattle.

	FY 2003 Budget		President's FY 2004 Budget Request		House FY 2004 Mark		Senate FY 2004 Mark (not confirmed)	
Columbia R. Hatcheries	\$11.457	M	\$11.457	M	\$12.000	M	\$11.085	M
ME&R	\$1.700	M	\$1.700	M	\$1.700	M	\$1.700	M
Columbia R. Facilities	\$3.365	M	\$3.365	M				
Marking	\$1.100	M						
Total	\$17.622	M	\$16.522	M	\$13.700	M	\$12.785	M

- * Five hatchery programs closed in 1995 and 30 million fewer fish were stocked into the Columbia Basin because funding has not kept up with the cost of living.
- * For 2004, level funding means more hatchery closures beginning next month.
- * The House and potentially the Senate marks do not include the facilities line item. This money has funded the irrigation screening and fishway programs. Cutting those programs would have an immediate and significant impact on Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmon. If the reductions were taken out of the hatchery program, that would mean the closure of 6-9 of the 18 hatcheries currently operating having a major impact on sports, commercial, and Tribal fisheries.
- * Funding to mark fish to support selective fisheries and to protect ESA listed fish is not included in the President's budget or in the House and Senate marks. Fewer fish will be stocked to pay for marking.

Bottom up budgeting: A process was initiated at Bob Lohn's direction to develop a bottom up budget for the CRFDP. Currently the budget is top down. We are told what is available and the

agencies submit requests based on available funds. At the meetings that have been held, the cooperating agencies have estimated their real needs to support the current CRFDP programs. These estimates include not only current O&M but also needed maintenance and up grades to facilities, monitoring and evaluation activities, and tasks relating to implementation of ESA Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans. The table in draft form is attached. It has not been given to Bob Lohn yet. It is being distributed at the PFMC meeting for final comments from the cooperating agencies and then will be presented to Bob Lohn.

Points of Contact-

R.Z. Smith, CRFDP Director (503) 231-2009 or
Rob Jones, Branch Chief (503) 230-5427