

MAKAH ROCKFISH ENHANCEMENT PROPOSAL

Situation: The following proposal statement was submitted by the Makah Tribe for consideration at the Council meeting.

Fewer issues in fisheries management are more divisive than the use of hatcheries. Much of this is due to experience gained from the century long use, and mis-use of hatcheries for Pacific salmon. Given the life-history differences between salmonids and rockfish, and the lessons learned from other species, we propose research to identify risks and benefits that might accrue to depleted rockfish populations from hatchery releases. This research is in response to the extremely long rebuilding times of depleted rockfish species and their historically low abundance levels. Research will seek to identify the risks and benefits associated with hatcheries in four key areas: 1) husbandry and early life history requirements, 2) genetics, 3) ecology, and 4) population dynamics. Each area of research will seek to identify risks, benefits, and develop risk management strategies that maximize benefits. Eventually, a linked decision support model will be developed to guide fishery managers prior to large-scale releases. To date research has focused on husbandry and resulted in the successful culture of yelloweye, china and brown rockfish in captivity. We are asking the Council to consider including this research as a part of its rockfish rebuilding plan.

The Makah Rockfish Enhancement Proposal will be discussed in detail as one of three issues at a joint meeting of Advisory Bodies Monday, November 3 from 8:30 to noon, Council Members have been encourage to attend. Additionally, the Council entourage, including the public, has been invited to a field-trip presentation at Hubbs Sea World Monday evening beginning at 6 p.m. to see various elements of initial culturing aspects of the proposal. Because of these two events, only a synopsis of the proposal will be presented under this agendum on the Council floor.

Council Task:

1. Consider Providing Comments on Makah Proposal.

Reference Materials:

1. None.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Synopsis of Proposal
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider Providing Comments on Makah Proposal

PFMC
10/21/03