

UPDATE ON MITCHELL ACT HATCHERY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for funding and operation of Columbia River hatcheries supported through the Mitchell Act Hatchery program. Salmon listings under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) throughout the Columbia River Basin have, and will continue to require substantial changes in operation of Mitchell Act funded hatcheries.

Most hatcheries funded through the Mitchell Act are located downstream of The Dalles Dam. However, NMFS intends to expand the project area to include all areas in the Columbia River basin that could be affected by potential alternatives (Agenda Item H.6.a, Attachment 1).

Mr. Bob Turner, NMFS Northwest Region Fish and Wildlife Administrator, will brief the Council on the current status of the Mitchell Act EIS.

Council Task:

Receive information and discuss implications.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.6.a, Attachment 1: FR 74-10724 Notice of Decision to Expand the Environmental Impact Statement Analyzing Mitchell Act Funding and Operation of Columbia River Hatcheries.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. NMFS Update on EIS
- c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion

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PFMC
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