

MITCHELL ACT HATCHERY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement to Inform Columbia River Basin Hatchery Operations and the Funding of Mitchell Act Hatchery Programs (MA DEIS) was released on August 6 for public review and comment (online at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Harvest-Hatcheries/Hatcheries/MA-EIS.cfm>).

The Council received a presentation on the MA DEIS at its September meeting and developed a process for developing and finalizing its comments by the December 3, 2010 comment deadline. The process included the development of a list of questions (Attachment 1) to be answered by the agencies, tribes, or Council advisory bodies, and the formation of the ad hoc Mitchell Act Committee to review the answers and develop draft comments for the Council to consider at the November Council meeting. The comments received in time to include in the initial briefing book mailing are contained in Agenda Item F.4.b, Management Entity Comments, and include comments by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Salmon Technical Team. Additional comments will be included in supplemental attachments and various advisory body reports.

Council staff will work with the Mitchell Act Committee on November 3 to review the response to questions and draft comments for Council review

Council Action:

- 1. Consider draft comments developed by the ad hoc Mitchell Act Committee and others.**
- 2. Provide guidance for finalizing Council comments and approve final comments to meet the December 3, 2010 comment deadline.**

Reference Materials:

1. Mitchell Act DEIS available on line at:
<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Harvest-Hatcheries/Hatcheries/MA-EIS.cfm>.
2. Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 1: List of Questions for Consideration in Preparing Comments on Mitchell Act Hatchery Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
3. Agenda Item F.4.b: Management Entity Response to Council Questions Concerning Preparation of Comments on the MA DEIS.
4. Agenda Item F.4.c: Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Finalize Comments on the DEIS

John Coon

PFMC
10/19/10