

This Presentation was part the

**California Fish and Game Commission's
Workshop on Strategic Improvement in
California's Anadromous Hatcheries**

Sacramento, February 4, 2014

The Future of Strategic Hatchery Management in California- Kevin Shaffer, CDFW:

California has a wonderful opportunity to evaluate and adjust direct and related operations associated with CA facilities. Two primary goals are to define the purpose of programs and integrate them into fisheries management (ocean and river), habitat restoration, and conservation of naturally spawning populations. This is not simply a facility adjustment, but the ability to look at all facilities and their cumulative operation.

1. Hatchery operators and managers are not only open to but at the center of improvement:
2. Ensuring stock integrity between spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon at Feather River- a collaboration of all those involved in the facility;
3. Development of universal pathologist forms for facilities- an effort of the CDFW's Hatchery Operations Committee.

CDFW is applying of the intent and recommendations of the independent report **to all anadromous facilities**, including Warm Springs and Mad River.

The HSRG Policy Team resumed its efforts in November 2013, to oversee and assist evaluation and potential implementation of recommendations. The Bureau of Reclamation joined that team. The intention is to ensure consistency, assist HCTs, and update and advise leadership responsible for the facilities to promote strategic hatchery management.

Hatchery Coordination Teams Every facility will be addressed by an HCT. Teams will be established for each facility as well as a Central Valley coordination team to assist the 6 teams to address common issues and progress at equivalent rates. It is currently anticipated that CDFW will facilitate all the teams except for the Coleman/Livingston Stone team.

1. Two teams have held their first meeting: Nimbus; Iron Gate.
2. One team will commence in February: San Joaquin
3. Other team are likely to commence in February or March: Merced, Feather River, Mokelumne River
4. Some teams will hold their initial meetings in mid to late spring: Warm Springs, Coleman~Livingston Stone

Some important topics to know will need everyone's support:

1. It will take time to make some improvements; these changes cannot be done in a short time frame;
2. Experts involved in HCTs will need encouragement and support to ensure they remain involved;
3. Resources will be necessary to make improvements. This cannot be minimized.
4. Facility and field improvements are not simple but doable. Allow CDFW and all the partners to develop the real options and alternatives to improve management.
5. Be prepared to receive evaluation of regulatory, policy, budgetary, and legal aspects that need refinement to make some changes achievable.

Most of us that will initiate strategic hatchery management will not be the generation of scientists and managers to complete this vital task. What we do now will aid or hinder those that will inherit responsibility for the next generation of anadromous hatcheries in California.