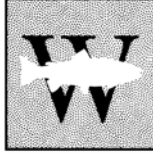


W A S H I N G T O N T R O U T



August 1, 2003

Dr. Jeff Koenings, Director
WDFW
Attention: Cheryl McCartney, Fish Program
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
HGMP@dfw.wa.gov

Dear Director Koenings,

I respectfully submit these comments to *Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Hatchery Genetic Management Plans for WDFW Puget Sound Hatchery Programs* on behalf of Washington Trout's members and staff. I commend WDFW for taking on the monumental task of developing HGMPs for their hatchery program. We believe that developing technically and legally sound HGMPs are an important and necessary step in the recovery process of Puget Sound wild chinook.

You will observe in our comments that we are critical of the overall success of this endeavor. We are principally concerned that the HGMPs generally fail to provide the information needed to qualify for take authorization. I hope that our comments will increase, not decrease, the frequency and specificity of communications between WT and WDFW while the Department prepares its responses to these comments and throughout the final development of these HGMPs.

Sincerely,

Kurt Beardslee, Executive Director
Washington Trout

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