



## National Marine Fisheries Service



# Draft Environmental Impact Statement to Inform Columbia River Basin Hatchery Operations and the Funding of Mitchell Act Hatchery Programs

- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS; also known as NOAA Fisheries) seeks public comment on a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be used to develop a NMFS policy direction that will 1) guide NMFS's distribution of Mitchell Act hatchery funds and 2) inform NMFS's future review of individual Columbia River basin hatchery programs under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- The draft EIS analyzes and compares the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of operating all 178 hatchery programs in the Columbia River basin under a full range of alternatives. There are five alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS.
- The draft EIS compares the effects of the alternatives on natural-origin fish populations, hatchery production levels, harvest, socioeconomics, environmental justice, wildlife, water quality and quantity, and human health.
- There is no preferred alternative in the draft EIS. A preferred alternative will be developed and published in the final EIS by NMFS after considering comments received during the 90-day public comment period on the draft. NMFS anticipates that the preferred alternative will be a blend of more than one of the alternatives evaluated in the draft EIS.
- While the final EIS will not make specific determinations on how individual hatchery programs should be operated, it will provide a comprehensive foundation for subsequent decision-making by NMFS under the ESA and Mitchell Act.

## How to comment

Written comments submitted during the public comment period must be received by November 4, 2010.

When submitting written comments, include the following document identifier in the comment subject line: Mitchell Act EIS.

Please send all comments to the Responsible Program Official:

William W. Stelle, Jr.  
Regional Administrator  
NMFS Northwest Region  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115  
206-526-6150 Telephone  
206-526-6426 Fax

Comments also can be submitted electronically to [MitchellActEIS.nwr@noaa.gov](mailto:MitchellActEIS.nwr@noaa.gov).



## For more information

The draft EIS is accessible electronically through the Northwest Region website at [www.nwr.noaa.gov](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov).

Should you have questions, please contact Allyson Purcell at 503-736-4736 or [Allyson.Purcell@noaa.gov](mailto:Allyson.Purcell@noaa.gov).

## Public meetings during comment period:

September 20, 2010	September 24, 2010	September 30, 2010
5:30 to 7:30 pm	5:30 to 7:30 pm	5:30 to 7:30 pm
Clark Regional Wastewater District	Kennewick Public Library	Columbia River Maritime Museum
8000 NE 52nd Ct.	1620 S. Union St.	1792 Marine Dr.
Vancouver, WA 98662	Kennewick, WA 99338	Astoria, OR 97103

NOAA