



March 19, 2019

Honorable Brad Witt,

My name is Dave Schamp and I have been advocating for Oregon sport fisheries since 1978. I am a fourth generation Oregonian that strongly believes we have a responsibility to protect and enhance our natural resources.

I am here today in support of HB 3016. According to the Bill's narrative the "United States Army Corps of Engineers is not meeting its hatchery mitigation obligations associated with its dam and flood control projects in the Willamette River Basin, including historical production of 749,800 pounds of hatchery fish annually. And, production from the (Santiam Hatchery) helps mitigate the loss of naturally produced salmon and steelhead, which support economically viable fisheries throughout the basin."

Please note that the word "mitigation" is used twice. Hatcheries were designed and constructed to mitigate for the loss of habitat, water pollution, obstructions or barriers and other environmental factors influencing the decline of wild fish. Hatcheries help mitigate for the loss of wild fish abundance, they are not a cause of the decline.

Well intentioned advocates insist hatchery supplementation has a negative impact on wild fish abundance and that their use should be reduced or eliminated. To support their anti-hatchery position they have over amplified selective research that suggests hatchery fish may have a negative impact on wild fish abundance.

Recent science, however, shows eliminating hatchery supplementation does not result in an increase in wild fish abundance absent other factors. In fact, there is no known instance in Oregon or Washington where eliminating hatchery supplementation has resulted in an increase in wild fish abundance at the population level absent other contributing factors.

We were able to identify twenty-two (22) peer-reviewed manuscripts whose primary conclusions indicated negative, positive, or no quantifiable effect of hatchery-origin fish on natural-origin salmon and steelhead population-level survival or productivity rates. Of the twenty-two (22) studies, fourteen (14) conclude that hatchery supplementation either benefitted wild fish or had no quantifiable effect on their abundance or productivity at the population level. The population scale studies that concluded no effect or positive effects of hatchery fish outnumber studies that concluded a negative effect from hatchery fish by almost 2:1.

The Wild & Hatchery Coexist campaign is intended to provide the facts concerning hatcheries and their importance in providing abundant and healthy fisheries. I have provided a copy of an information brochure which outlines the campaign and encourage you to visit the website at www.hatchery-wild-coexist.com.

Thank you for your time and service. Hatcheries are critical to Oregon's future and the science shows they are not bad for wild fish. Please support funding for the Santiam Hatchery.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "DAVE" in all caps, followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dave Schamp

HATCHERIES ARE NOT THE ENEMY!



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It's Time to Change the Narrative.

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And don't forget to like us on Facebook.



SUPPORT ABUNDANT AND HEALTHY FISHERIES

HATCHERY&WILD is a campaign to highlight the importance of fish hatcheries. History shows hatcheries are a good thing and critical for ensuring abundant and healthy fisheries.

Some insist hatchery supplementation has a negative impact on wild fish abundance and their use should be reduced or eliminated. Recent science shows hatchery fish do not have an adverse impact on wild fish abundance, and in fact, may be beneficial to their survival. The facts are changing and decision makers need to realize hatcheries are more important than ever.

The anti-hatchery narrative has led to a reduction in funding and Northwest hatcheries are suffering. Facilities need to be updated and programs enhanced to improve the number and fitness of fish released.

It is time to change the dialog in favor of hatcheries. They provide fish for consumptive fisheries and help preserve wild fish for future generations.



RESEARCH

There are numerous studies showing hatchery supplementation does not have a negative impact on wild fish abundance. In fact, not only is there peer reviewed science that shows hatchery fish don't hurt wild stocks, but it also shows that the wild fish may benefit from hatchery plantings.

Here are some examples:

Johnson Creek Study: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3490153/

BC/Wild Broodstock Study: onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1752-457.2011.00198

Brent Lister Study: www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00028487.2013.824919

Willamette River Study: afspubs.online.library.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/tafs.10140

CCB Willamette River Article: www.cbbulletin.com/432933.aspx

SPEAK OUT

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YOU CAN HELP

Your help is needed to change the pervasive anti-hatchery narrative based on the false premise that in order to save wild fish populations, hatcheries must be shut down. Be an informed advocate by knowing, and sharing, that the science and facts support hatchery and wild fish coexisting. For decades our Northwest watersheds have sustained abundant populations of both hatchery and wild fish. Arm yourself with real facts and help get much needed hatcheries back on track.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

All things being equal, do populations of wild fish in the presence of hatchery fish trend better than wild populations under no influence of hatchery fish?

No. Removing hatchery fish has not increased wild fish abundance. Hatcheries are a tool used to mitigate the loss of natural production caused by habitat damage or removal, access barriers (dams), over harvest and predation.

Did hatcheries lead to the decline of wild fish?

No. Habitat destruction, access barriers, water pollution, predation and non-selective harvest are the main reasons for their decline. Hatchery supplementation has

mitigated wild fish decline by providing consumptive fisheries and helped sustain remaining wild fish populations that might have otherwise been destroyed. Science shows hatcheries are not the problem.

Has the removal of hatchery fish from the Upper Clackamas river delivered a positive response from the wild winter steelhead population?

No. A recently published, peer reviewed study states, "When used as a predictive variable in our model, the abundance of hatchery summer steelhead spawners (1972-2001) did not have a negative effect on winter steelhead recruitment."

Can hatchery programs be improved to better coexist with wild fish?

Yes. Updated and well-maintained hatchery programs will make a significant difference in cost effectiveness, return rates and quality of fish released. Some hatchery programs have made improvements while most still rely on outdated and poorly maintained facilities and genetically washed-out fish stocks. In recent months, several hatchery programs have suffered devastating losses of fish costing millions of dollars that will have notable consequences on fisheries. It's time to reinvest in hatchery programs.

