MEMORANDUM

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date: **July 7, 2006**

To: **Private Hatchery Committee**

From: **Guy Chilton**

Subject: **Minutes of Private Hatchery Committee Meeting 6/21/06**

The second meeting of the Private Hatchery Committee took place on June 21, 2006 at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Headquarters in Salem. Those in attendance were:

Anne K. Rystrom – Clear Creek Rainbow Ranch
Joe Rohleder – Oregon Aquaculture Association
Drew Hansen – Island Springs Hatchery
Todd Hanna – Mt. Hood Community College
John Thorpe – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Clint Bentz – Oregon Aquaculture Association
Tony Amandi – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Fish Health Services
Ethan Negus – Desert Springs Trout Farm
Guy Chilton – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kathy Bridges – Santiam Valley Ranch
Steve Williams – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The following items were on the agenda for discussion:

- Fish Health Issues
- Fish Health Examinations
- Whirling Disease Management

Discussion of Agenda Items:

Fish Health and Examinations

Can ODFW legally provide fish health examinations and receive payment for the service?

Technically, yes – ODFW can write a contract for the exams and receive payment. However there are two policy issues:

1. ODFW is not mandated by law to provide fish health exams – this can be gotten around because ODFW is mandated to protect the fish resources of the state, and providing fish health exams could be considered as part of this protection.
2. ODFW cannot provide unfair competition to the private sector – as a state agency ODFW cannot undercut prices for services provided by a private fish health lab.

At his time there is only one private fish health lab in Oregon: Fish Health Services of Sweet Home, Oregon operated by John Cvitanich. When Tony Amandi spoke with him a few months ago, he expressed no interest in providing examination services statewide – he would maybe do BKD testing, not interested in virus testing.
Kathy Bridges stated that private growers would like the option of using a private service if it was available. Oregon Aquaculture Association (OAA) had met with John Cvitanich to discuss using his service – he stated he could provide annual exams at $1000 per site.
There needs to be three levels of evaluation: one for trout, one for warmwater species, and one for other species (ex. sturgeon).
Tony Amandi - (I am not sure that three levels of service are needed. It would be the same service but some of the tests would differ or be replaced by different ones depending on the species of fish being examined).

What diseases prohibit transport of fish?
Class I – all fish must be destroyed; this is a Federal mandate, also called for in Europe.
Class II – fish can be transported under certain circumstances, depending on disease, whether present in target watershed or not, or if target system is closed (no effluent).
Growers feel that testing should concentrate on Type I and II diseases, at least for trout.

Why test for diseases (especially M. cerebralis) at sites where water source is disease-free (well or spring water, or no fish above intake)?
Tony Amandi stated that even wells and springs can become contaminated through ground water; listed example from Utah of whirling disease contamination. ODFW tests at all their facilities, even those with well water sources.

Clint Bentz – growers would like to have two levels of examination: (1)a minimum level that meets the criteria of protecting the waters of the state, and (2)a separate level that could be requested by growers if needed, such as for fish to be sold out of state. The second level would be paid for by the grower.
What is the minimal level of testing to meet legal requirements? Minimum level to test for Category I and II diseases, second level to test for other diseases?

Tony Amandi – ODFW would provide the same level of testing as provided to ODFW hatcheries. A full inspection not only protects the fish stocks of the state, but provides protection to the grower as well, in identifying potential for disease outbreaks.
The best level would be bi-annual inspections for parasites, bacteria, and virus (especially for broodstock {broodstock would only be inspected once, at spawning time} and fish sold out of state). BKD testing may not be necessary for trout, unless there is an outbreak. The minimum level would be an annual inspection.

Is the broodstock testing destructive?
Tony Amandi - Virus testing can be non-destructive. In the case of brood trout ovarian fluid and milt can be collected and sampled without sacrificing the fish to collect tissue samples, but BKD and other tests require organ tissue samples are destructive. Non-destructive methods are being developed by several laboratories such as – PCR tests that detect the presence of DNA of disease organism. We would not use PCR other than for confirmation, as it can detect presence of small numbers of organisms, when disease may not be present.

Drew Hansen – *Will ODFW send someone to collect samples for testing, or will the grower send them in?*
Tony Amandi presented a handout detailing vehicle costs for travel to collect samples. Cost for collecting samples would include vehicle costs and time for personnel to travel to site. ODFW leases vehicles from DAS motor pool, which no longer charges a flat rate for mileage, but charges a monthly base fee, plus fuel, oil, and routine and major maintenance. Vehicle cost to travel to grower's facility would be based on a proportion of the total vehicle cost for that month, and would be variable form month to month. Vehicle costs would be lower if all samples were collected in the same month, but personnel are not always available and fish are not always at adequate size for sampling in the same month. ODFW may be able to lease vehicles from OSU at a flat mileage rate, but they are not always available.

ODFW Fish Health has been willing to accept samples delivered by the grower, but other states may not accept results obtained in this way; they require that fish health or other approved personnel collect samples. ODFW will move in this direction to ensure proper sampling for legal status of certifications.

Another way to reduce costs would be to piggyback other exams on *M. cerebralis* exams; Funding from Sport Fish Restoration is in place for *M. cerebralis* sample collection, so samples for other tests could be collected at the same time.

<u>ODFW Testing Issues</u>
ODFW must agree internally on minimum testing required
ODFW must contact private provider(s) – if no one else will provide testing, ODFW will move ahead to get rules in place to provide testing. If private labs can provide the necessary services at a reasonable rate, ODFW cannot provide service at a lower cost. ODFW costs do not include overhead (equipment costs, maintenance, etc.) that a private provider would have to include.
OSU Extension Service is expanding their fish health service; they began with the aquarium industry, but have done salmonids; they may be interested in providing services to aquaculture.

[Tony Amandi will contact John Cvitanich of Fish Health Services and Dr. Tim Miller-Morgan, a veterinarian who provides fish health service to see if he is interested in the

OSU Extension Sea Grant program to see if they would be interested and able to provide services.]

Will growers have the option to use private providers if available?
Steve Williams – ODFW rule will require annual exams, but will not require growers to use ODFW services.

Clint Bentz – OAA would like to see minimum level of health inspection to meet regulations, with second level of inspection available when required.
Cost to small producers and U-catch facilities may be prohibitive – maybe grandfather in present small producers; new small producers would have to follow new regulations.
Should exams be a trout only policy, excluding warmwater fish and U-catch facilities?

Tony Amandi – warmwater fish should be included in policy; warmwater fish have disease concerns other than those of trout. Small producers and U-catch operations still provide risk of disease transmission and thus would have to have annual inspections of their fish.

Whirling Disease

Tony Amandi presented literature on whirling disease, then reported on a meeting held at Coleman National Fish Hatchery in California attended by representatives from California, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and University of California at Davis personnel to discuss whirling disease (*M. cerebralis*), private hatchery examinations and other fish health issues.

How they deal with whirling disease:

California allows movement of infected fish within endemic zones (where *M. cerebralis* is already present) and to terminal waters (those with no effluent). Facilities found to be positive have their production capped at present level; the cap remains in effect until the facility is found to be free of disease. Production of non-susceptible species is allowed where Tubifex worms exist. They are experimenting with a trout strain (Hofer trout) originally exported to Europe and now brought back to the US which has developed resistance to *M. cerebralis*.

Nevada has few private facilities. Fish are destroyed at facilities with severe *M. cerebralis* outbreaks. Otherwise infected facilities are isolated and transport allowed only to terminal waters.

Idaho has two systems – private hatcheries are regulated by the Department of Agriculture, except those facilities which release fish into waters of the state, which are regulated by Idaho Fish & Game. IDFG cannot request destruction of stock at infected facilities, but will deny transport permits, will not buy fish from affected facility and will

remove the name of the facility from a list of approved sites IDFG requires *M. cerebralis* testing.

USFWS – presence of *M. cerebralis* triggers depopulation of hatchery.

Under current regulations in Oregon, detection of the parasite calls for destruction of the stock. Multiple tests are employed to ensure facility is parasite-free.
Policy options under consideration:

1. Allow no transfer of infected fish into state waters, even where parasite is endemic (present standard).
2. Allow transfer of infected fish only to terminal waters in endemic areas.
3. Allow transfer of infected fish to both terminal and non-terminal waters only in endemic areas. This increases the parasite load in those waters and increases risk of amplification of the pathogen.

Ann Rystrom – *What about stocking negative fish into endemic areas – doesn't this spread the parasite?*
Tony Amandi – Stocking known infected fish into an endemic area increases the parasite load. Non-infected fish can become infected but the risk of spreading the parasite is lower. Infected Chinook and steelhead stray into the Deschutes River, but the parasite has not become established there.
Ann - Will *the policy allow raising positive fish in endemic areas for sale as food fish (no live sales)?*
Tony – Only if there is no effluent.
Ann – *What if fish are in concrete ponds, and a cleaning program is in place to prevent presence of Tubifex?*
Tony – That would have to be taken under consideration.
Ann – *What process must be gone through to be allowed to raise fish again* (after an infection)?
Tony – Development of an operations plan, removal of debris from ponds to eliminate Tubifex, and under current regulations if subsequent testing revealed the presence of the parasite it would be required that all fish be destroyed. Protection of the Clackamas River system is important due to the presence of ESA listed fish.
In Idaho, testing of settling ponds found positive fish, even when fish in the facility were found to be negative.

When is the M. cerebralis policy targeted for completion?
Tony Amandi – The target is to get the policy out for public comment by the end of this year, and to take the package to the commission by February.

Discussion of Items from Previous Meeting

Purchase of Trout by ODFW

Drew Hansen – *Will ODFW be purchasing more fish in the future?*

Steve Williams – There are no budget items for fish purchase in the present budget except for Youth Angling and Diamond Lake. The Feds are not interested in any direct purchases. Isolated situations may arise where we buy fish, but this will be driven by budget considerations. There may be purchases to replace fish from Cole Rivers Hatchery due to the IHN infection.
Joe Rohleder – California has mandated part of their license fee to fund purchase of fish. Washington has a program to purchase fish from private producers.
Steve – The problem comes with the department's sudden need for fish, and the growers don't have the capacity or the fish already on hand.

The growers would like to see some kind of program for selling fish to ODFW, but it must be funded by the legislature, not taken out of the present funding at the expense of other programs.

Steve – The agency mission is to recruit more anglers – having more fish available would contribute to this mission.
Discussion is needed between the growers and ODFW, we need to learn more about the Washington program, before going to the legislature.
Joe – The program would contribute to economic development, not only money to the growers but to the sport fishing industry.
Steve – There can be no increase in license fees in the 07-09 biennium; it would have to be in the 09-11 budget.
Clint Bentz – The OAA has a grant for working on market development and regulatory issues.
Steve – We need to meet with Washington Fish & wildlife and Troutlodge to learn about the Washington program.
John Thorpe – Washington has programs where private sources (corporate sponsors) can fund stocking of public waters from private hatcheries.
[John Thorpe will contact WDFW and Troutlodge to arrange meeting to learn about Washington program.]

Fish Transport Permits

Guy Chilton distributed copies of memo outlining changes to the Fish Transport Permit system proposed by Rhine Messmer of the Recreational Fisheries section.

Tony Amandi – ODFW needs to have a single channel for issuing transport permits, rather than the present multiple-channel system. There needs to be a centralized information base.

Clint Bentz – the transport permit issues don't address triploids.
Guy – Because you can never guarantee that fish are 100% triploid without testing every fish, triploids are managed the same as diploids.

Drew Hansen – Transport issues do not address the stocking of brook trout and brown trout. The state should not be able to stock species that private growers cannot; private growers should be allowed to sell brook trout and brown trout.

[Invite Rhine Messmer to next meeting to discuss fish transport issues.]

Sturgeon Propagation

Steve Williams - Present regulations prohibit sturgeon propagation; sturgeon rearing is only allowed for educational and research purposes. It will require a statute change to allow sturgeon rearing for sale as a seafood product. This needs to be brought before the legislature in a way that ODFW will not oppose.

Harry Knorr is requesting a research permit from the Fish and Wildlife Commission to look into the feasibility of rearing sturgeon in salt water at his facility in Newport

Other

There was a brief discussion of the OAA Pond Workshop held March 11, 2006 at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton. Clint Bentz noted that there were 110-120 attendees. Oregon State University expressed interest in continuing with this workshop. Tony Amandi offered to do a presentation on fish diseases. OAA would like to include koi clubs and vendors

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Fish Hatchery Committee was tentatively scheduled for September 6, 2006

A meeting with WDFW and Troutlodge to discuss the Washington trout purchase program was tentatively scheduled for July 18 or 19.

Private Hatchery Committee 6/21/2006

Name	Address	Phone	Fax	Email address
Anne K. Rystrom	18826 S. Ridge Road, Oregon City, OR 97045	503-631-2871	503-631-2871	n/a
Joe Rohleder	PO Box 211, Waldport, OR 97394	541-563-3973	541-563-6206	rohleder@teleport.com
Drew Hansen	17225 NW Lucy Reeder Rd, Portland, OR 97231	503-621-3565	503-621-6970	IslandSpringsHatchery @Yahoo.com
Todd Hanna	Science Division, Mt. Hood Community College, 26000 SE Stark St., Gresham, OR 97030	541-352-1017 503-491-7163	503-491-6986	fishtech@gorge.net Todd.Hanna@mhcc.edu
John Thorpe	3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97303	503-947-6212	503-947-6202	john.thorpe@state.or.us
Clint Bentz	408 N 3rd Ave, Stayton, OR 97383	503-769-2186	503-769-4312	cbentz@bcsuc.com
Tony Amandi	OSU Microbiology Dept.	541-737-1855	541-737-0496	amandia@onid.orst.edu
Ethan Negus	48320 Desert Springs Rd., Summer Lake, OR 97640	541-943-3192	541-943-3193	desertsprings16@hotmail.com
Guy Chilton	3406 Cherry Ave NE, Salem ,OR 97303	503-947-6249	503-947-6202	guy.s.chilton@state.or.us
Kathy Bridges	Santiam Valley Ranch	503-743-2931	503-743-2512	KathyBridges@aol.com
Steve Williams	3406 Cherry Ave NE, Salem ,OR 97303	503-947-6209	503-947-6202	stephen.h.williams@state.or.us