

A BLUEPRINT FOR DEVELOPING A  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST COASTAL SALMONID RESTORATION PLAN  
AND INTERIM ACTIONS IN OREGON

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

March 1993

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## Introduction

Numerous populations of salmon, steelhead, and trout in coastal rivers of California, Oregon, and Washington are at depressed levels and could possibly be listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, adding to the salmon already listed in the Columbia and Sacramento rivers. West coast states need federal support to restore and sustain coastal salmonids. A change in national policy guidance to federal agencies is needed so that they will elevate the priority of protection and restoration of these fish, and federal funding is needed for restoration activities. In addition, the individual states need to develop and implement a program of restoration activities specific to the needs of their salmonid populations.

The following document, built on ideas discussed at the Governor's Coastal Salmonid Restoration Initiative, describes a restoration planning and implementation process that incorporates both multi-state and Federal cooperation, individual state initiative, and public involvement (Fig. 1). This document proposes both technical and political approaches necessary to begin the process of restoring coastal salmonid populations to more desirable levels. This process should be incorporated into the upcoming Timber Summit.

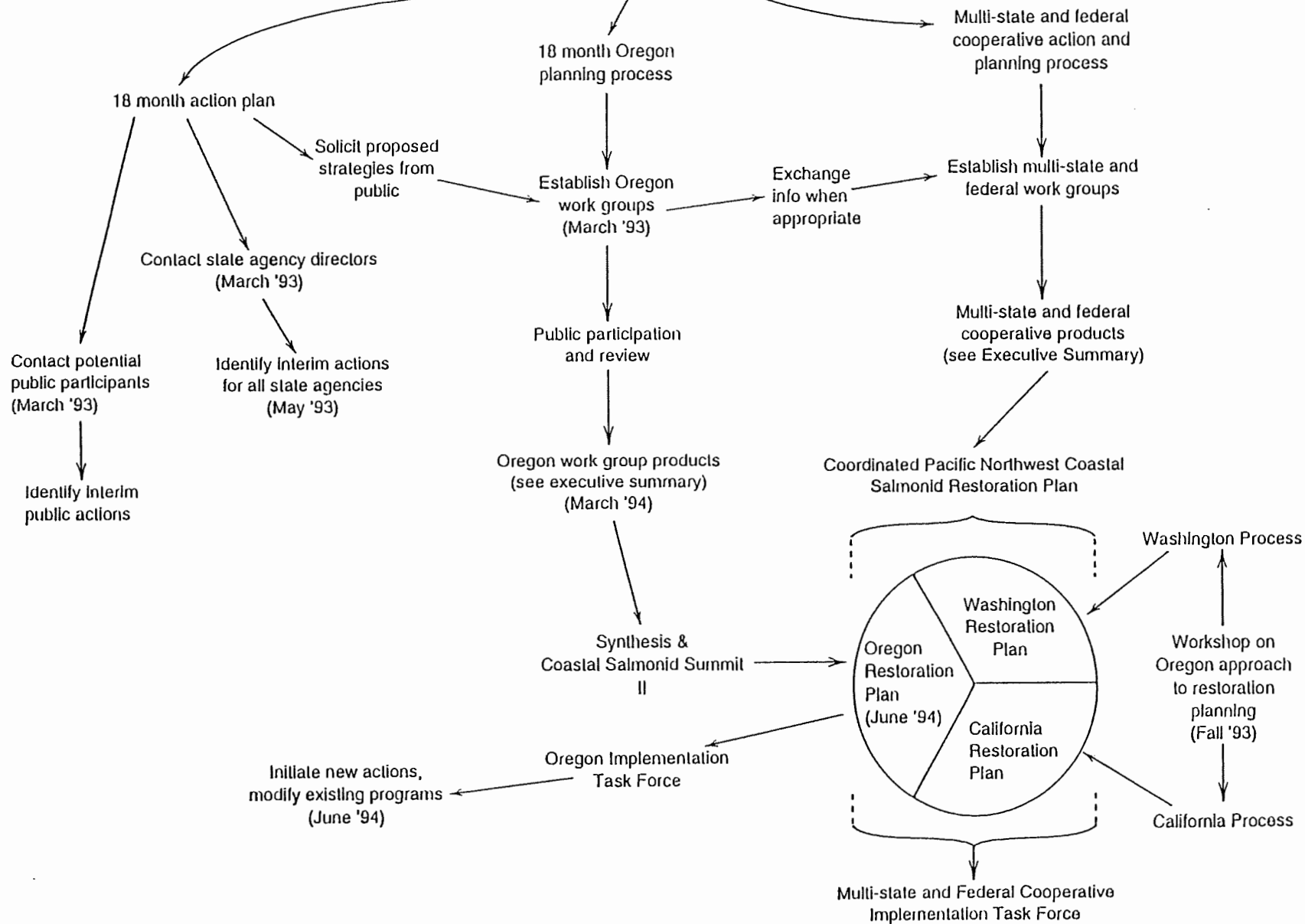
One aspect of the proposed planning process is multi-state and Federal coordination of political and governmental actions that will address management of populations that cross state boundaries, avoid duplication of effort, and facilitate the acquisition of federal funding for restoration activities (Appendix A).

A second aspect of the proposed process is the development of individual state restoration plans. The Oregon plan currently consists of a framework plan that identifies the major elements necessary for restoration of depressed populations (Fig. 2). It also describes the process for developing a comprehensive Oregon Coastal Salmonid Restoration Plan (Figs. 3 and 4). Whereas the draft Oregon plan may serve as a model for the other states, each state's plan may be quite different, a reflection of the differences in habitats, status of fish populations, and political processes within each state.

Many activities are currently underway or could be implemented immediately in Oregon that are pertinent to restoration of coastal salmonids. By May 1993, State agencies will develop and implement new interim restoration actions to increase protection and accelerate restoration of coastal salmonids during the 18 month planning process. Similarly, private groups will be asked to identify interim private sector actions.

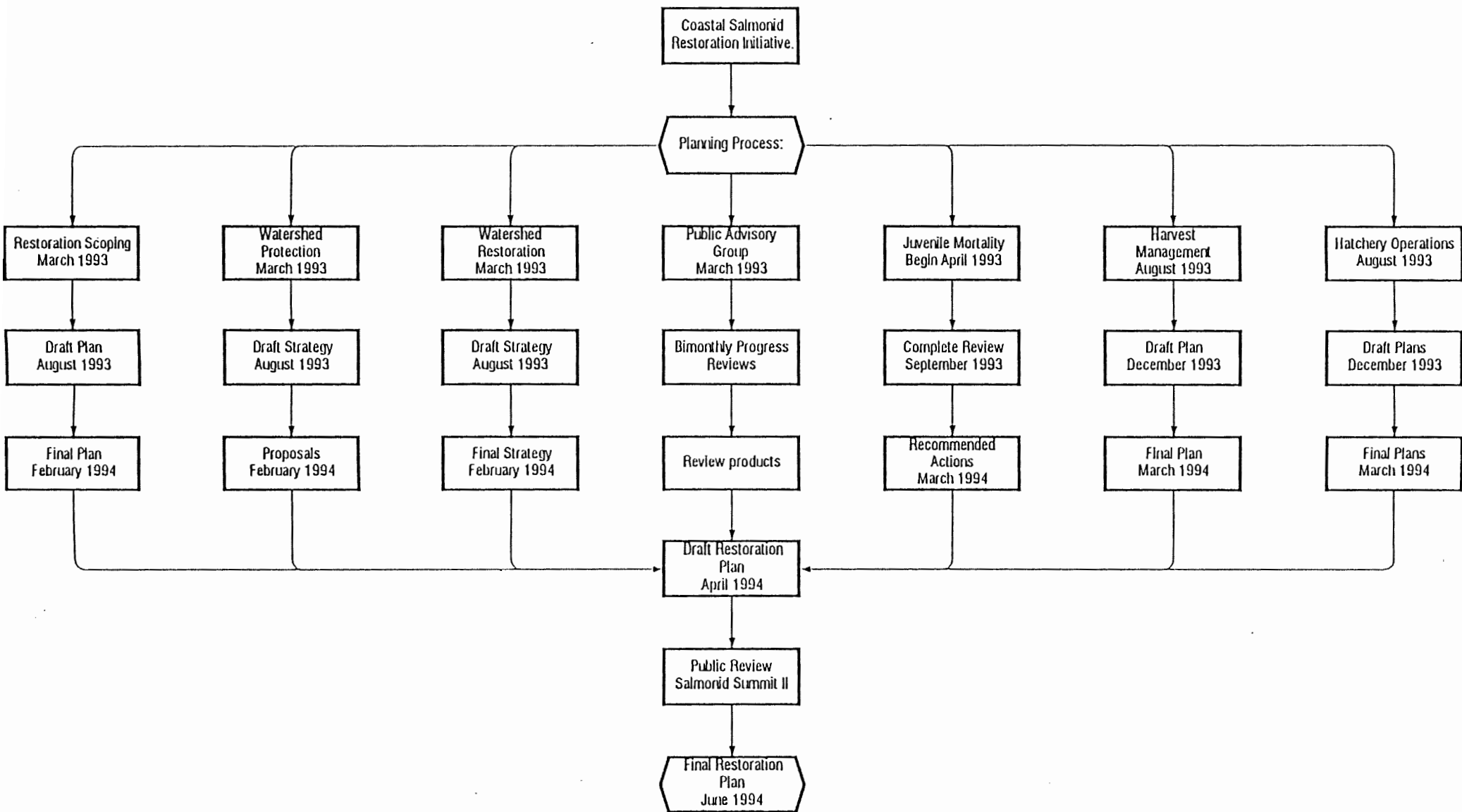
# OREGON SALMONID SUMMIT

(Dec. '92)



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FIGURE 3. DEVELOPMENT OF DETAILS OF THE OREGON COASTAL SALMONID RESTORATION PLAN



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

The following priority levels are used to describe the planning products listed in APPENDICES A-J.

Level 1. Achievement of restoration is improbable without this product.

Level 2. Achievement of restoration will be significantly impaired, but is possible without this product.

Level 3. Achievement of restoration can probably occur without this product.

### Priority Level 1 Action

#### Cooperative Action By Governments

<u>Product</u>	<u>Description</u>
A-4	Federal legislation or administrative rules as needed to implement the habitat protection strategy developed in Product D-1.
B-1	Implementation Task Force (ITF).
B-2	Public advisory group to assist technical task forces
B-3	Oregon legislation or administrative rules as needed to implement the habitat protection strategy developed in Product D-1.

#### Technical Actions and Task Forces

<u>Product</u>	<u>Description</u>
C-1	Restoration Scoping Plan (RSP) for Oregon coastal salmonids.
D-1	Development of a habitat protection strategy.

## Priority Level 3 Action

### Cooperative Action By Governments

<u>Product</u>	<u>Description</u>
A-5	Proposed amendments to Marine Mammal Protection Act
A-6	Federal economic incentive/compensation program
B-4	Legislation to create an Oregon economic incentive/compensation program.

### Technical Actions and Task Forces

<u>Product</u>	<u>Description</u>
E-2	Enter all available habitat data on comprehensive, database.
F-2	List of potential aquatic habitat and watershed restoration projects.
H-1	Point-source juvenile mortality.
H-2	Angling-related juvenile mortality.
J-2	Hatchery operational plans.

## APPENDIX A

### MULTI-STATE AND FEDERAL COASTAL SALMONID RESTORATION INITIATIVE

Product A-1. A coordinated effort by the Governor's offices of Oregon, Washington and California and Federal agencies to instigate restoration actions for coastal salmonids. For example, a workshop could take place in Fall 1993 to describe the Oregon approach to restoration planning.

Timetable: A multi-state and Federal working group should be networked by the Governor's office by June 1993 so they can begin coordination of multi-state actions.

Responsibility: The Governor's office.

Priority: Level 2.

This action is very important to the success of RSP for two reasons. First, some restoration actions may require multi-state cooperation, and second, Federal funding of restoration efforts will be contingent on a multi-state approach.

Product A-2. Through the PFMC process, highlight harvest management needs specifically related to restoration of Oregon coastal salmonids.

Timetable: The PFMC process is ongoing. As new guidance is provided by the Oregon Coastal Salmonid Restoration Initiative it will be introduced into the PFMC process.

Responsibility: ODFW.

Priority: Level 2.

Present harvest rates for some populations appears to be excessive given current freshwater habitat and ocean conditions. This action addresses this problem and improves coordination of harvest management efforts with other restoration actions.

Product A-3. A coordinated, multi-state agreement to increase marking of hatchery fish to levels an may be required to achieve restoration of wild populations in Oregon, California, and Washington.

Timetable: Communication, coordination, and negotiation are in progress at this time in regional fishery management forums. Currently all hatchery steelhead are being marked in Oregon. The agreement should be completed within one year, and may involve a progressive phase-in of marking.

Responsibility: ODFW will be lead agency.

Priority: Level 2.

Depending on species and population, this may be very important to achieving restoration milestones. New funds may be required.



Product A-6. A Federally funded economic incentive/compensation program to encourage participation in restoration actions.

Timetable: Undetermined.

Responsibility: The Governor's office.

Priority: Level 3.

May be important to success of restoration through cooperation rather than regulation. This message came through clearly at the Governor's Coastal Salmonid Restoration Initiative. Requires new funding.

as the single most important factor in the decline of coastal salmonid populations.

Product B-4. A State funded economic incentive/compensation program to encourage participation in restoration actions.

Timetable: Undetermined.

Responsibility: The Governor's office.

Priority: Level 3.

May be important to success of restoration through cooperation rather than regulation. This message came through clearly at the Governor's Coastal Salmonid Restoration Initiative. Requires new funding.

## APPENDIX D

### PROTECT HABITAT IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Product D-1. A habitat protection strategy to provide a "tiered" approach to habitat protection that provides to ecosystems critical to the perpetuation of coastal salmonid populations, a higher level of protection than is currently being provided. A system of ecosystem sanctuaries should be established on State or Federal land within each major watershed to protect critical habitat. A system such as that suggested by the American Fisheries Society would be a good model. Also included should be legislation to protect stream ecosystems from harmful agricultural practices, and legislation to protect all riparian ecosystems, including those in industrial and urban areas.

Timetable: Action should start immediately to begin the legislative process with a goal of introduction into the 1995 Legislature.

Responsibility: The Governor's office will appoint a habitat protection task force to develop the proposed legislation. Members should include scientists and representatives from appropriate agencies, environmental groups and landowners. The Governor's office will work with the Northwest Congressional Delegation to arrange for suitable and effective sponsorship in Congress of any needed Federal legislation and with the Legislature to create needed State legislation.

Priority: *Level 1.*

This action is extremely critical to restoration of coastal salmonid populations. Degradation of freshwater and estuarine rearing habitats was identified at the Governor's Coastal Salmonid Restoration Initiative as the single most important factor in the decline of coastal salmonid populations.

## APPENDIX F

### RESTORE HABITAT IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Product F-1. A written watershed and habitat restoration strategy. This strategy will describe "state of the art" methods to restore watersheds and stream habitat. It will outline under what conditions each method is appropriate and what parts of basins should be targeted for restoration.

Timetable: A first draft of the strategy will be prepared by August 1993 and a "complete draft" by February 1994.

Responsibility: ODFW research scientists, with the aid of other selected scientists from Oregon, Washington, and California.

Priority: Level 2.

This action is very important to restoration of coastal salmonid populations. Degradation of freshwater and estuarine rearing habitats was identified at the Governor's Coastal Salmonid Restoration Initiative as the single most important factor in the decline of coastal salmonid populations.

Product F-2. A compilation of proposed watershed and habitat restoration projects by watershed that can be evaluated and prioritized for implementation by the IFT based on the habitat restoration strategy (F-1) and the RSP.

Timetable: Lists should be compiled by February 1994 in time to be acted upon by the IFT. New ideas will be continually added to the lists.

Responsibility: ODFW coastal District Fish Biologists work with user groups, land owners, and interested public in their area.

Priority: Level 3.

This action would improve the process of on-the-ground restoration of coastal salmonid populations.

## APPENDIX H

### MANAGE DIRECTED AND NON-DIRECTED MORTALITY OF JUVENILE SALMONIDS

Product H-1. A review of "point sources" of mortality on juvenile salmonids such as unscreened diversions, dams, inadequate streamflows caused by water diversions, aggregations of predators, and degraded water quality caused by waste discharge to determine the scope of these problems for coastal salmonid populations. Some sources of mortality have already been determined by ODFW to be a critical problem. For example, ODFW has identified over 1,000 unscreened water diversions in coastal watersheds. The review will result in a list of populations targeted by the RSP that are thought to be currently experiencing "point sources" of mortality on juveniles at a level inconsistent with the RSP and a strategy to address these mortality sources.

Timetable: Draft review completed by September 1993, final recommendations in March 1994.

Responsibility: ODFW, Habitat Conservation Division will take lead.

Priority: Level 2.

A 10-year plan to screen diversions is being developed by ODFW.

Product H-2. A review of angling-related mortality on juvenile salmonids consistent with the RSP. The review will result in: (1) a list of populations targeted by the RSP that are thought to be currently experiencing angling-related mortality on juveniles at a level inconsistent with the RSP; (2) a description of proposed management approaches to reduce mortality to acceptable levels, and; (3) a description of monitoring needed to verify attainment of satisfactory mortality rates.

Timetable: Undetermined.

Responsibility: ODFW.

Priority: Level 3.

This product will probably have a relatively minor effect on most populations, and is not expected to make a large individual contribution to the success of the The Plan.

## APPENDIX J

### MODIFY HATCHERY SUPPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS AS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE RESTORATION OF WILD POPULATIONS

Product J-1. Comprehensive marking program for all hatchery fish.

Timetable: Currently all hatchery steelhead are being marked. ODFW needs to develop procedures, facilities, and funding as required to mark the percentage (possibly 100%) of all species of hatchery fish necessary to facilitate restoration of wild populations.

Responsibility: ODFW.

Priority: Level 2.

Marking of all hatchery fish in Oregon may be required in the near future. Significant planning will be necessary to determine the necessary percentage of fish to mark, the best type of mark to use, and the modification of facilities necessary to accomplish this marking. New funds may be required.

Product J-2. Written operational plans for individual coastal hatchery programs that need modification to facilitate restoration of wild populations. These operational plans will contain explicit direction to tailor the hatchery program to The Plan.

Timetable: The operational plans will be prepared by March 1994.

Responsibility: ODFW.

Priority: Level 3.

It is important to ensure that operation of coastal hatchery programs is compatible with, and supports restoration actions prioritized and identified in The Plan. Written operational plans will be helpful.