

Challenges of Operating
California Department of Fish and Game Hatcheries
under the Guidelines of the
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program

What do you think is the first thing I hear when I mention the words National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System to a hatchery employee?

I am a Fish Farmer.



Challenges

- 1) Convincing the hatchery staff that their NPDES Permit is not a formidable object.**

Challenges

1) Convincing the hatchery staff that their NPDES Permit is not a formidable object.

Tools

--Compliance Guide for Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Point Source

--Best Management Practices Plan Template

Knowledge

How to complete the sampling

Materials

**Proper sampling equipment
Proper maintenance**

Challenges

2) Dealing with three Regional Water Quality Control Boards.



North Coast

Central Valley

--Redding

--Sacramento

--Fresno

Lahontan

Challenges

2) Dealing with three Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

- Treat hatcheries as if they are sewage treatment facilities
- Liaison between hatcheries and RWQCBs



Challenges

2) Dealing with three Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

--How the Regional Boards are structured

- i) Writer of the NPDES Permit
- ii) Oversees the NPDES Permit
 - a) reviewer of the Self Monitoring Reports
- iii) Enforcement Unit

Challenges

3) Changing old habits

- Managers need to read and understand the NPDES Permits
 - i) every hatchery employee should read the NPDES Permit

- Develop and implement Best Management Practices Plans (BMP)
 - i) cover hatchery operation
 - ii) tool for training staff

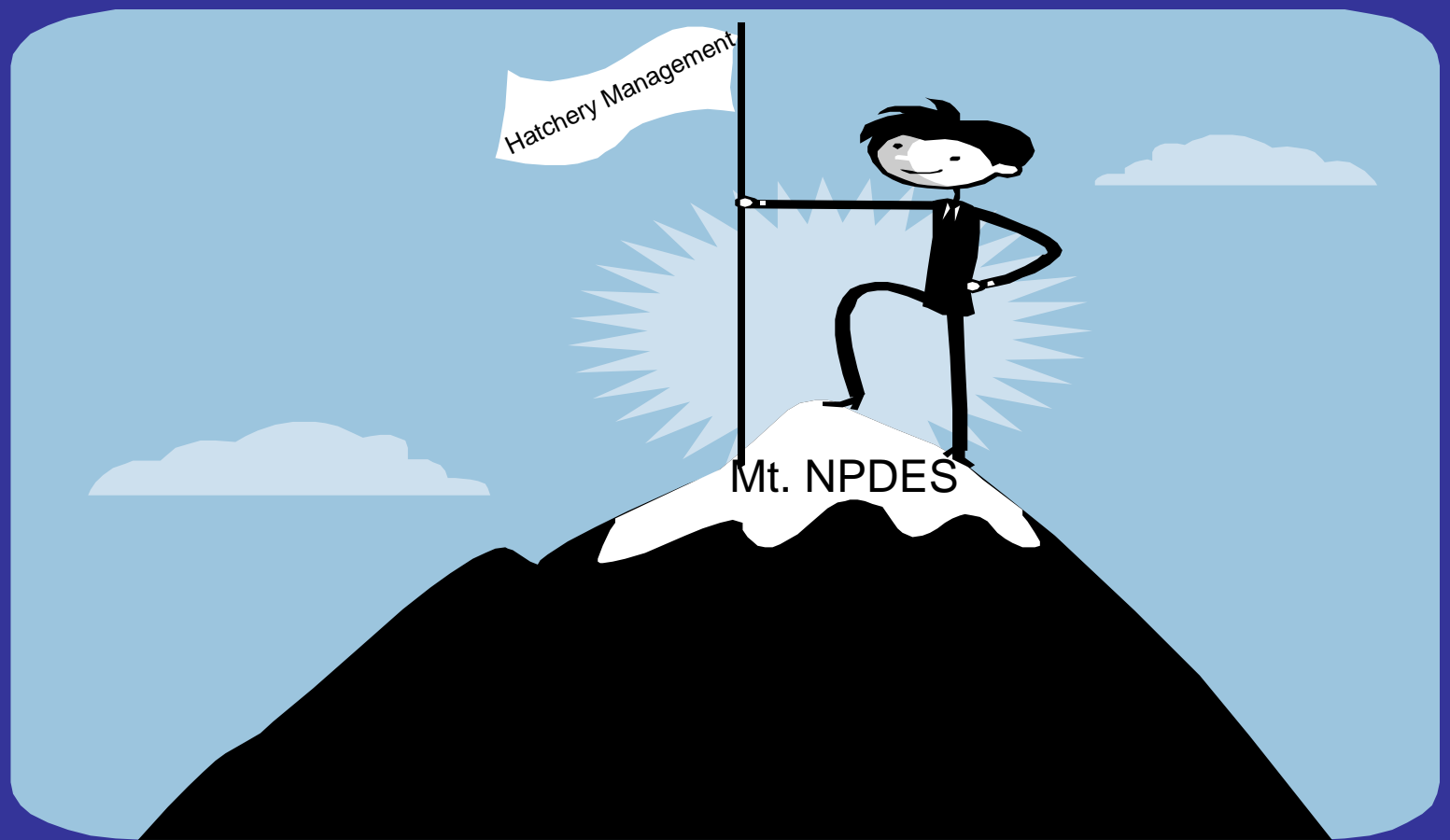
- Review the BMP with hatchery staff
 - i) put a copy in the break room/provide time for them to read
 - ii) seek their input
 - iii) should be reviewed and updated annually

Challenges

4) Future??

- Uncertain
 - i) Tougher regulations
- Potential law suits

If we work together



Questions