

ABSTRACT

Mitchell Act Hatchery Economic Contribution

Brian Allee, Ph.D.

NOAA Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries retained TCW Economics to conduct this analysis of the economic contribution of salmon and steelhead produced at Mitchell Act funded hatcheries in the Columbia River. This analysis was similar to the assessment conducted by TCW Economics for the Public draft EIS on the Mitchell Act for hatchery operations and to determine funding for the Mitchell Act hatchery programs. The Mitchell Act fishery modeling team provided estimates of 2007 commercial (tribal and non tribal) and recreational harvest were used to conduct the analysis. Salmon and steelhead smolts produced at Mitchell Act hatcheries account, on average, for 46% of all adult fish of these species caught in Columbia River basin fisheries, and 21% of all adult fish of these species caught in fisheries along the Oregon and Washington coasts. In the Columbia River basin, smolts produced at Mitchell Act hatcheries account, on average, for 70% of adult salmon and steelhead harvested in commercial fisheries (tribal and non-tribal combined), and 26% of adult fish caught in recreational fisheries. Along the Oregon and Washington coasts, smolts produced at Mitchell Act hatcheries account, on average, for 17% of adult salmon and steelhead harvested in commercial fisheries (tribal and non-tribal combined), and 27% of adult fish caught in recreational fisheries. The total harvest of tribal, commercial and recreational fisheries as of 2007 was 252,051. Production of salmon and steelhead at Mitchell Act hatcheries annually contribute \$17.3 million in spending in the regional economies of the Columbia River basin, with about 54% (\$9.4 million) of this spending occurring in the Lower Columbia River subbasin. The commercial harvest of salmon and steelhead produced at Mitchell Act hatcheries generates, on average, \$2.3 million in economic (ex-vessel) value to commercial harvesters in the Columbia River basin, and \$2.4 million in value to harvesters along the Oregon and Washington coasts. The sport catch of salmon and steelhead produced at Mitchell Act hatcheries annually generates, on average, \$12.3 million in trip-related spending by recreational anglers in the Columbia River basin, and \$2.9 million in trip-related spending along the Oregon and Washington coasts. Economic activity generated by Mitchell Act hatchery production, and by commercial and recreational fishing for salmon and steelhead produced at these facilities, annually supports 705 jobs and \$30.1million in personal income in Columbia River basin regional economies. Along the Oregon and Washington coast, economic activity related to commercial and recreational fishing for salmon produced at Mitchell Act hatcheries annually supports 166 jobs and \$6.4 million in personal income. Based upon the Mitchell Act fishery modeling team, these economic contributions for from 2007 occurred based upon an actual hatchery O&M budget of \$11 million.