

**Statement for HSRG Report “Roll-Out” Event
Made on Behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
By
Mr. Charles J. Calica**

I am pleased to be here at this event on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. First, I want to acknowledge the significant work that went into this project, and to thank those who labored in its preparation. This report provides the fishery managers with new insights, ideas and recommendations. I was a member of the Steering Committee, but the heavy-lifting for this project was done at the project and program level, and they should be commended for their efforts in developing this report.

The Warm Springs Tribes, and other fishery managers, have a responsibility as part of their sovereignty-based natural resources stewardship to always seek out and consider scientific information. In the area of both natural and artificial production of salmon and steelhead, data and information is not static – it is growing and expanding each year. In fact, many of the Tribes’ own production programs are relatively new, and only recently have they started to demonstrate the very positive results, and the potential we have with our programs given improved ocean conditions and the habitat and hydro operations improvements made over the last decade in the Columbia Basin. We see this report as supporting our theory and our practices. Specifically, we are particularly pleased that on what may be the *most critical question*, this report confirms what the Tribes have saying – that hatcheries *can* be effectively used to help us meet both salmon rebuilding efforts *and* harvest objectives. This is a significant finding and we heartily agree. We hope that Congress and the Administration understands this key finding.

Beyond that acknowledgement and statement of appreciation, I would like to offer a few observations. Hatcheries have been extensively studied in the Columbia Basin over the past decade, the Northwest Power Planning Council and others have led other significant efforts. We believe that with this new and additional information, we can move beyond additional study, research, and review and focus our energy on deciding how, when, and where to implement hatchery reform recommendations. We believe that attention needs to turn to “on-the-ground” implementation.

This event signals a hand-off to the fishery managers who now should now consider how these technical recommendations balance with other policy goals and legal mitigation requirements. This will need to be done on a case-by-case basis over time, and it will require funding. Some of these recommendations will be easily accepted and implemented quickly; others will be more challenging. But, if we all are dedicated to being respectful of the need to balance science recommendations with policy prerogative and other legal mandates that will be considered in other venues, and if we avoid a “one-size-fits-all” or “top-heavy” approach into the future, the implementation of this hatchery reform effort will be successful. As we in Warm Springs exercise what we consider to be not only legal but *also* sacred stewardship obligations for managing fish, water, and lands and protection of our Treaty rights, we will look to this new information to assist us.