

California Department of Fish and Game


## Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program

# California Department of Fish and Game Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program EIR/EIS

Public Meeting - Carson  
October 29, 2009




# Agenda

- Introductions
  - Brief Project Description
  - EIR/EIS Process
  - Impacts Described in EIR/EIS
  - Proposed Mitigation Measures
  - Alternatives
  - Submitting Comments
- 

## DFG Program

The various elements of DFG's activities surrounding the rearing and stocking of fish ("the Program") within the state include:

- Fourteen trout hatchery facilities owned by DFG
  - Two salmon and steelhead hatchery facilities owned by DFG
  - Eight salmon and steelhead hatchery facilities owned by others
  - Administering the Fishing in the City program
  - Administering the Classroom Aquarium Education Project (CAEP)
  - Issuing permits for stocking public and private waters with fish reared at private aquaculture facilities (Private Permit Program)
  - Implementing the fish production and native trout conservation requirements contained in California Fish and Game Code Section 13007
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## FWS Program

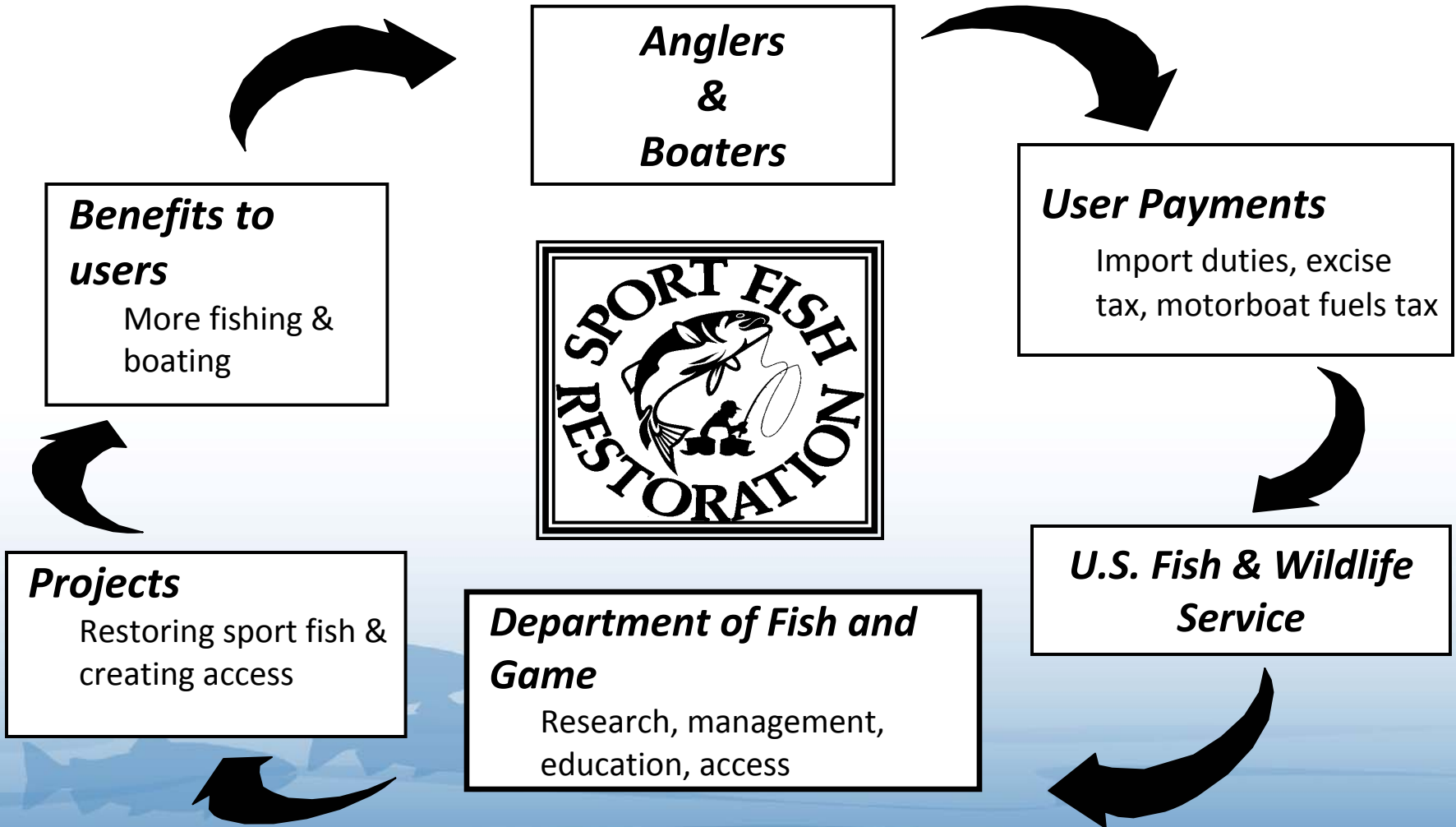
Under the action being considered in this EIR/EIS, the USFWS may continue to grant SFRA funds to DFG to support actions associated with:

- rearing and stocking of inland trout and inland salmon from DFG's 14 trout hatcheries
- rearing and stocking of steelhead from the Mad River Hatchery
- egg-taking stations for inland trout and inland salmon
- the Fishing in the City Program
- the Classroom Aquarium Education Project

SFRA funds, however, will not be used to support private stocking permits, or rearing or stocking from other anadromous fish hatcheries.

## Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program

# FWS Sport Fish Program Funding




## EIR/EIS Process



# Impact Analysis

Base period for the analysis was 2004 through 2008


Analysis of separate program elements

- Hatchery operations
  - Stocking of trout, salmon and steelhead
  - Issuance of Private Stocking Permits
  - Fishing in the City Program
  - Classroom Aquarium Education Project
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# Hydrology & Water Quality


Potential effects associated with hatchery operations and discharges:

- Localized alterations in hydrology and water supply
  - Surface water quality
  - Groundwater quality
  - Water quality at stocking locations
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# Biology

Potential effects at hatcheries associated with:

- Changes in salinity, pH, nutrients, TSS, aquaculture treatment chemicals and drugs, and dissolved oxygen (DO) in surface waters caused by hatchery water discharges;
  - Release of nonnative species, invasive species, and pathogens
  - Entrainment of aquatic organisms
  - Predator control
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## Biology

Potential effects on native fish and wildlife from stocking:

- Release of invasive species during the stocking program
  - Release of water-borne pathogens or of diseased fish
  - Non-target harvest
  - Food webs and general changes in aquatic ecosystems
  - Competition for food and space
  - Predation by stocked fish
  - Introgression
  - Anglers
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## Economics and Recreation

Analysis performed by estimating statewide sport fishing attributable to hatchery production

Sport fishing days attributable to fishing for hatchery-produced fish, annually (2004-2008)

Trout	Salmon (Inland)	Steelhead	Chinook Salmon (rivers)	Chinook Salmon (ocean)
6,618,000 – 7,446,000	252,500	11,100	126,000 – 151,200	908,000

# Mitigation Measures

- **Trout Stocking**

DFG will implement a pre-stocking evaluation protocol (PSEP). (PSEP detailed in Appendix K of the EIR/EIS).

- **Salmon and Steelhead Stocking**

DFG is currently preparing HGMPs in consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as well as the owners of the dams associated with the various hatchery facilities. Mitigation will come from this process.

- **Private Stocking Permits**

DFG is recommending to the California Fish and Game Commission, that it eliminate exemptions from obtaining permits in those counties currently exempted. DFG will also implement an evaluation protocol similar to the PSEP.

## Alternatives

- Alternative 1 - No action/No project
- Alternative 2 - Current program implementing guidelines and mitigation
- Alternative 3 - Program constrained as in Interim Court Order

➤ **Preferred Alternative is Alternative 2**

## Comments on the EIR/EIS

Comments on the Draft EIR/EIS, pursuant to CEQA must be post-marked by November 16, 2009, and pursuant to NEPA must be post-marked by November 30, 2009.

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## QUESTIONS?



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