

Types of Impacts

There are a number of impacts that occur as a result of the continued operation of the DFG Hatchery and Stocking Program. Most impacts from operations of the hatcheries are less than significant, with a few exceptions. For those exceptions, mitigation measures have been developed to reduce the impacts to less than significant. Most impacts from the Program are a result of stocking and angler presence. These impacts can be summarized into the following broad categories:

Genetic Effects: including introgression of wild native trout, steelhead and salmon with hatchery-reared trout, steelhead and salmon due to stocking of hatchery fish in wild fish habitats.

Predation: stocked fish preying upon native fish and wildlife species.

Competition: stocked fish competing with wild aquatic and terrestrial species for various food resources, and for spawning and rearing habitat.

Transmission of disease and invasive species: spreading of fish and amphibian diseases and non-native invasive species through transport of hatchery fish to state waters, discharge of water at stocking locations, discharge of water at hatchery facilities, and movement of invasive species by anglers.

Angler Effects: disruption of native species habitats through the movement of anglers and their vehicles in or adjacent to aquatic habitats.

Water Quality Effects: changes in water quality from hatchery discharges to adjacent creeks and rivers.

Recreation: recreation activity, primarily angling, stimulated by stocking of hatchery-reared trout, salmon and steelhead.

Economic: economic activity supported by rearing and stocking of trout, salmon and steelhead, including spending generated by hatchery operations and hatchery-dependent sport and commercial fishing.

