

## ANALYSIS

### Department of Fish and Wildlife Hatchery Data Management

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**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$300,000, over three years, for staff capacity to support management and transfer of hatchery monitoring data.

**Analysis:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Exchange Network (EN) grant program strives to foster better environmental management and decision-making through increased access to timely, high quality environmental information. This is achieved through a standards-based approach to facilitate environmental data sharing among EPA, states, tribes, and territories, via a framework which allows organizations to exchange data over the internet regardless of the specific information technology used.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) seeks permission to apply for an EN program grant that would provide staff capacity to link existing hatchery databases. This effort would streamline field data collection as well as the transfer from salmonid-production hatcheries to managers, production staff, and researchers. Timely data transfer ensures availability of information for fishery management, and accurate data delivery ensures confidence in the ability to precisely monitor and manage hatchery fish production.

The application deadline is June 2, 2023 and award notification is anticipated by September 2023. The period of performance is October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026. ODFW does not anticipate the need for additional staff with this funding opportunity. If successful, ODFW would hire limited duration appointments into existing, available federally funded positions within the East Region Fish Research program. No state match is required for this Federal funding opportunity.

**Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.

## Department of Fish and Wildlife Filimoehala

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**Request:** Authorization to apply for a grant of \$300,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Information Exchange Network grant opportunity for Hatchery Salmonid Monitoring Data Management and Transfer.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife is requesting authorization to apply for a grant of \$300,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The grant funds will support staff capacity for the integration of the existing Hatchery Management Information System with the Hatchery Coordinated Assessment and Exchange. The grant funds are provided under the Environmental Informational Exchange Network, which has the aim of fostering better environmental management and decision-making through access to high quality information. The grant application is due to the EPA by June 2, 2023, and grant notifications are expected in September of 2023. The grant does not require a match and the granting period will last for three years from the award.



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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May 15, 2023

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301



Dear Co-Chairpersons:

## **Nature of the Request**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) requests approval to submit a federal grant application to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the amount of \$300,000 over three years, for staff capacity to ensure timely and efficient management and transfer of hatchery salmonid monitoring data.

## **Background**

EPA's Exchange Network grant application is a part of the Environmental Information Exchange Network. The Exchange Network (EN) was launched in 2002 as an inter-governmental, collaborative partnership of EPA, states, territories, and tribes to foster better environmental management and decision-making through increased access to timely, high quality environmental information. This was achieved through a standards-based approach to facilitate environmental data sharing among EPA, states, tribes, and territories. The framework adopted allows organizations to exchange data over the Internet regardless of the specific information technology used.

The purpose of ODFW's grant application is to create the staff capacity to seamlessly link existing databases (Hatchery Management Information System, Regional Mark Information System, Fish Information System, and Hatchery Coordinated Assessment and Exchange) to streamline field data collection and transfer from salmonid-production hatcheries to managers, production staff, and researchers. This grant application supports ODFW's mission and goals by ensuring timely and accurate delivery of hatchery performance metric data to track production of salmon and steelhead and progress toward both recovery and mitigation objectives. Timely data transfer ensures data availability for fishery management,

and accurate data delivery ensures confidence in our ability to precisely monitor and manage hatchery fish production.

**Agency Action**

Funding applications are due to EPA by June 2, 2023, with notification of successful applicants by September 2023. The performance period for ODFW to spend funding would be October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026. ODFW does not anticipate a need for additional FTE with this funding opportunity. If successful, ODFW would hire limited duration appointments into existing, available positions within East Region Fish Research program. No state match is required for this Federal funding opportunity.

**Action Requested**

ODFW requests approval to submit a federal grant application to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$300,000 under the Exchange network grant opportunity.

**Legislation Affected**

None

Sincerely,



Curtis Melcher

Director