Humptulips Hatchery Needs Help

Local News

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HOQUIAM, Wash. - About 20 fishermen, guides, and concerned citizens gathered around State Representative Brian Blake at a Hoquiam meeting last night with Department of Fish and Wlidlife officials. Director Phil Anderson said budget cuts are coming to the Humptulips Hatchery "We're looking at eliminating the hatchery Chinook at the hatchery, and we're also looking at cutting the coho production by about %70." Anderson said the department needs volunteers to gather brood stock, among other things. "What we're trying to do is get together a group of volunteers that are interested in trying to minimize the impacts in the reductions that we have to make relative to our revenue at Humptulips Hatchery."

The department is facing these kind of cuts all over the state. "The Sammish Hatchery up in Northern Puget Sound is scheduled for closure, the Nemmah Hatchery down on the Willapa is another one, similar situations. So we're going to be anxious to reach out to different community members." Department staff also discussed options like the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement program, State Representative Brian Blake said start writing letters; "You probable need to light us up in the newspapers, and say we are asking the legislature to do that, if that's what you want." Senate Bill 5421 was a grass roots effort to fund Hatchery operations on the Columbia through an additional licensing fee.