

Trout Production:

**Estimates Suggest Price Competitive
Options are Available**

Proposed Final Report

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Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee

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Department of Fish and Wildlife Directed by Statute to Enhance and Improve Recreational Fishing



WDFW's Approach to Trout Production Lacks Detailed Cost Data by Species and Size

- **Angler Survey** – Functions as market research to identify angler demand by species and size
- **Fisheries Management Science Principles** – Determines what species and sizes to produce and where to place these in response to angler demand
- **Tracks costs by hatchery rather than species and size** – Lacks cost data to compare to prices of alternative approaches to the state producing all of its own trout

Legislature Directed Audit to Identify WDFW's Costs to Produce Trout and Compare with Alternative Approaches



Spokane Hatchery Case Study Provided Estimated and Comparable Costs

- Auditors estimated cost to grow rainbow trout by three most commonly released sizes
- Compared to private company's estimated prices and previously submitted bids

Rainbow Trout	WDFW Spokane Hatchery	Private Company
Fry	\$0.04	Not comparable
Fingerlings	\$0.19	\$0.36
Catchables	\$1.51	\$1.13 to \$1.77

Auditors Caution Against Applying Results More Broadly

It is likely the Legislature will not know with certainty whether results from this one price comparison apply more broadly until:

- 1 The Department collects hatchery cost information by species and size (see Auditor Recommendation)
- 2 Formal bids are available showing the prices private growers would charge the Department to purchase their fish

Auditors Recommend WDFW Develop a Plan to Track Costs by Species and Size of Fish



Auditor Recommendation:

- Plan should determine the most cost effective approaches to meet WDFW's stocking objectives, including the identification of production costs by species and size of fish
 - ♦ Will allow for comparison to the prices of alternative approaches to the state producing all of its own fish
- The Department should report to the Legislature on this plan by December 2013

WDFW concurs

OFM concurs

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