UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUN 2 5 2009

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Wolf:

Enclosed is the 7th Annual Report to Congress on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). The report describes the projects funded by the PCSRF, and their projected and actual results from FY 2000 through FY 2008, pursuant to the request for an annual report in the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (H. Rpt. 108-10).

The report first discusses the importance of Pacific salmon and steelhead and explains how PCSRF performance is measured. This is followed by a summary of the progress of PCSRF funded projects, in terms of performance indicators and short-, mid-, and long-term goals of the *Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Performance Goals, Measures and Reporting Framework.* The report also explains how funds are distributed, and how they have been allocated among states and tribes. Examples of specific projects are included in sidebars throughout the document.

Please contact me at (202) 482-4951 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the Department of Commerce and its programs.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Charles
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration

Enclosure

1770 / OB 2091
ES-LA-PCO-EXSEC

Facsimile from the Commerce Office of Budget

Office of the Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
HCHB, Room 5818
Washington, D.C. 20230
(202)482-4648
(202)482-3361 (fax)
(202)482-4323 (fax for BCRD)

DATE: 6/25/09

TO: **OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE WOLF**
Ranking Member, CJS Subcommittee
JENNIFER ALLEN *FAX: (202) 225-0437* *PHONE: (202) 225-5136*

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 18

FROM: *(CHECK ONE)*

☒	*NEIL SHAPIRO* *DIRECTOR*	☐	*DEPUTY DIRECTOR* *(VACANT)*

	TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS DIVISION (TEP) HCHB 5821		**TRADE AND INFORMATION PROGRAMS DIVISION (TIP) HCHB 5821**		**BUDGET COORDINATION AND REPORTS DIVISION (BCRD) HCHB 5324**		**SYSTEMS POLICY AND PERFORMANCE DIVISION (SPP) HCHB 5312**
	DAVID SOCOLOF *CHIEF*		*BILL TOOTLE* *CHIEF*		*RICHARD KNOWLES* *CHIEF*		*STEPHEN SHAPIRO* *CHIEF*
	Robert Braddock		*Daniel Abramowitz*		*Doug Follansbee*		*Matthew Falls*
	Steven Brescia		*Mike Anderson*		*Judy Hall*		*Lynn Wilson*
	Gene Lockwood-Shabat		*Tom Gray*		*Betsy McAuliffe*		*Bill Tatter*
	Anne-Louise Marquis		*Gerald Patterson*		*Cindy McMullen*		

COMMENTS:

Facsimile from the Commerce Office of Budget

Office of the Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
HCHB, Room 5818
Washington, D.C. 20230
(202)482-4648
(202)482-3361 (fax)
(202)482-4323 (fax for BCRD)

DATE: 6/25/09

TO: OFFICE OF SENATOR SHELBY
Ranking Minority Member, CJS Subcommittee

ART CAMERON	*FAX: (202) 224-2698*	*PHONE: (202) 224-7731*
ALLEN CUTLER	*FAX: (202) 224-2698*	*PHONE: (202) 224-1241*
GOODLOE SUTTON	*FAX: (202) 224-2698*	*PHONE: (202) 224-9745*
AUGUSTA WILSON	*FAX: (202) 224-2698*	*PHONE: (202) 224-9744*

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 18

FROM: (CHECK ONE)

☒	*NEIL SHAPIRO* *DIRECTOR*	☐	*DEPUTY DIRECTOR* *(VACANT)*

	TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS DIVISION (TEP) HCHB 5821		TRADE AND INFORMATION PROGRAMS DIVISION (TIP) HCHB 5821		BUDGET COORDINATION AND REPORTS DIVISION (BCRD) HCHB 5324		SYSTEMS POLICY AND PERFORMANCE DIVISION (SPP) HCHB 5312
	DAVID SOCOLOF *CHIEF*		*BILL TOOTLE* *CHIEF*		*RICHARD KNOWLES* *CHIEF*		*STEPHEN SHAPIRO* *CHIEF*
	Robert Braddock		*Daniel Abramowitz*		*Doug Follansbee*		*Matthew Falls*
	Steven Brescia		*Mike Anderson*		*Judy Hall*		*Lynn Wilson*
	Gene Lockwood-Shabat		*Gerald Patterson*		*Betsy McAuliffe*		*Bill Tatter*
	Anne-Louise Marquis		*Tom Gray*		*Cindy McMullen*		

COMMENTS:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUN 2 5 2009

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

Enclosed is the 7th Annual Report to Congress on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). The report describes the projects funded by the PCSRF, and their projected and actual results from FY 2000 through FY 2008, pursuant to the request for an annual report in the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (H. Rpt. 108-10).

The report first discusses the importance of Pacific salmon and steelhead and explains how PCSRF performance is measured. This is followed by a summary of the progress of PCSRF funded projects, in terms of performance indicators and short-, mid-, and long-term goals of the *Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Performance Goals, Measures and Reporting Framework*. The report also explains how funds are distributed, and how they have been allocated among states and tribes. Examples of specific projects are included in sidebars throughout the document.

Please contact me at (202) 482-4951 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the Department of Commerce and its programs.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Charles
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration

Enclosure

Facsimile from the Commerce Office of Budget

Office of the Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
HCHB, Room 5818
Washington, D.C. 20230
(202)482-4648
(202)482-3361 (fax)
(202)482-4323 (fax for BCRD)

DATE: 6/25/09

TO: OFFICE OF SENATOR MIKULSKI
Chairman, CJS Subcommittee
GABRIELLE BATKIN *FAX: (202) 228-1624* *PHONE: (202) 224-3106*
KEVIN KIMBALL *FAX: (202) 228-1624* *PHONE: (202) 224-3063*

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 18

FROM: (CHECK ONE)

☒	*NEIL SHAPIRO* *DIRECTOR*	☐	*DEPUTY DIRECTOR* *(VACANT)*

TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS DIVISION (TEP) HCHB 5821	TRADE AND INFORMATION PROGRAMS DIVISION (TIP) HCHB 5821	BUDGET COORDINATION AND REPORTS DIVISION (BCRD) HCHB 5324	SYSTEMS POLICY AND PERFORMANCE DIVISION (SPP) HCHB 5312
DAVID SOCOLOF *CHIEF*	*BILL TOOTLE* *CHIEF*	*RICHARD KNOWLES* *CHIEF*	*STEPHEN SHAPIRO* *CHIEF*
Robert Braddock	*Daniel Abramowitz*	*Doug Follansbee*	*Matthew Falls*
Steven Brescia	*Mike Anderson*	*Judy Hall*	*Lynn Wilson*
Gene Lockwood-Shabat	*Gerald Patterson*	*Betsy McAuliffe*	*Bill Tatter*
Anne-Louise Marquis	*Tom Gray*	*Cindy McMullen*	

COMMENTS:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUN 2 5 2009

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is the 7th Annual Report to Congress on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). The report describes the projects funded by the PCSRF, and their projected and actual results from FY 2000 through FY 2008, pursuant to the request for an annual report in the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (H. Rpt. 108-10).

The report first discusses the importance of Pacific salmon and steelhead and explains how PCSRF performance is measured. This is followed by a summary of the progress of PCSRF funded projects, in terms of performance indicators and short-, mid-, and long-term goals of the *Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Performance Goals, Measures and Reporting Framework*. The report also explains how funds are distributed, and how they have been allocated among states and tribes. Examples of specific projects are included in sidebars throughout the document.

Please contact me at (202) 482-4951 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the Department of Commerce and its programs.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Charles
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration

Enclosure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUN 25 2009

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

Enclosed is the 7th Annual Report to Congress on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). The report describes the projects funded by the PCSRF, and their projected and actual results from FY 2000 through FY 2008, pursuant to the request for an annual report in the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (H. Rpt. 108-10).

The report first discusses the importance of Pacific salmon and steelhead and explains how PCSRF performance is measured. This is followed by a summary of the progress of PCSRF funded projects, in terms of performance indicators and short-, mid-, and long-term goals of the *Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Performance Goals, Measures and Reporting Framework*. The report also explains how funds are distributed, and how they have been allocated among states and tribes. Examples of specific projects are included in sidebars throughout the document.

Please contact me at (202) 482-4951 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the Department of Commerce and its programs.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Charles
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration

Enclosure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUN 2 5 2009

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

Enclosed is the 7th Annual Report to Congress on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). The report describes the projects funded by the PCSRF, and their projected and actual results from FY 2000 through FY 2008, pursuant to the request for an annual report in the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (H. Rpt. 108-10).

The report first discusses the importance of Pacific salmon and steelhead and explains how PCSRF performance is measured. This is followed by a summary of the progress of PCSRF funded projects, in terms of performance indicators and short-, mid-, and long-term goals of the *Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Performance Goals, Measures and Reporting Framework*. The report also explains how funds are distributed, and how they have been allocated among states and tribes. Examples of specific projects are included in sidebars throughout the document.

Please contact me at (202) 482-4951 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the Department of Commerce and its programs.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Charles
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration

Enclosure

2009 Report to Congress

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

FY 2000–2008

U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Marine Fisheries Service

2009 Report to Congress: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, FY 2000–2008

Synopsis

Pacific salmon and steelhead[1] are significant biological, cultural, and economic assets to Pacific Coast states and tribes and to the United States as a whole. Changes in coastal ecosystems, from both human and natural factors, have contributed to the decline of Pacific salmonids[2] since the early 1900s. Certain land-use, water-use, fishery harvest, and hatchery practices have increased the vulnerability of salmonid populations and resulted in the listing of many populations as threatened or endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).[3] Congress has recognized the importance of ensuring the recovery and sustainability of salmonids and since 2000 has provided funding to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to manage the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). This 2009 Report to Congress documents activities and progress under the PCSRF since FY 2000.

[1] Steelhead are the anadromous life form of freshwater rainbow trout. Steelhead migrate to the ocean but return to freshwater streams to spawn.

[2] In this report, the term "salmonids" refers to both salmon and steelhead.

[3] For tracking and assessment purposes, individual populations of salmon and steelhead are grouped into Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) for salmon and Distinct Population Segments (DPSs) for steelhead. Each ESU and DPS represents a specific genetic stock and is considered by NMFS to be a "species" for listing purposes under the ESA. There are 37 salmon ESUs and 15 steelhead DPSs (52 total) within the Pacific Coast region (not including Alaska). Of these, 17 ESUs and 11 DPSs are currently listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. The ESUs and DPSs are organized into seven recovery domains (see map on the inside back cover).

Salmon and Steelhead—A Precious Resource

Salmonids are an integral part of the cultures and economies of communities and tribes along the Pacific Coast. Salmon runs provide both direct and indirect economic benefits and are important to the cultural practices and identities of many communities. The benefits of healthy runs are seen along the coast and inland as far as Idaho, as fish move into the upper reaches of the Columbia Basin. Changes in runs can affect fisheries, severely impacting jobs and businesses in coastal communities. For example, the combined value of the West Coast (California, Oregon, and Washington) recreational and commercial ocean fisheries dropped 46 percent in 2007 to about $39 million, from the 2002–2006 annual average of $71 million. In recognition of these impacts, the Secretary of Commerce declared fishery "disasters" in the Klamath River in 2006 and the Sacramento River in 2008.

Salmonids also play a key role in supporting healthy ecosystems and animal and plant communities, from the open ocean to upland habitats hundreds of miles inland. Salmon in the marine environment are an important food source for killer whales. As they return upstream to spawn, salmon support robust populations of top-level predators, such as otters, bears, and eagles. Additionally, their carcasses bring vital nutrients from the ocean to support upland riparian ecosystems and healthy plant communities.

Exhibit 1: NMFS PCSRF Allocations to States and Tribes (in Millions)

State/Tribe	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	Total
Washington	$18.0	$30.2	$34.0	$27.8	$26.0	$24.6	$23.7	$24.1	$23.8	$232.2
Alaska	$14.0	$19.5	$27.0	$21.9	$20.6	$23.7	$21.7	$16.7	$14.6	$179.7
California	$9.0	$15.1	$17.0	$13.9	$13.0	$12.8	$6.4	$7.9	$9.6	$104.7
Oregon	$9.0	$15.1	$17.0	$13.9	$13.0	$12.8	$6.4	$7.3	$9.2	$103.7
Idaho*	•	•	•	•	$4.9	$4.4	$2.2	$2.8	$2.4	$16.7
Pacific Coastal Tribes	$6.0	$7.4	$11.0	$8.9	$8.4	$7.9	$4.9	$6.1	$5.5	$66.1
Columbia River Tribes	$2.0	$2.5	$4.0	$3.0	$3.1	$2.5	$1.2	$1.7	$1.9	$21.8
Totals	$58.0	$89.8	$110.0	$89.4	$89.0	$88.7	$66.5	$66.6	$66.9	$724.9

* Idaho entered the program in FY 2004.

States, tribal commissions, and individual tribes not affiliated with a commission are all eligible to apply.[5]

States and tribal entities allocate their awarded funds to specific projects based on their own competitive processes to screen and prioritize projects that best address the PCSRF goals. In addition to the PCSRF federal funds, states provide significant matching funds through their grant allocation processes.[6] The federal and state matching funds are supplemented by private and local contributions at the project level, including additional funding, volunteer time, and other in-kind donations. These local contributions are difficult to quantify, but are important to the success of the PCSRF.

PCSRF Actions and Performance

For the past 8 years, the PCSRF has provided means for states and tribes to invest in priority habitat restoration; fish passage improvements; research, monitoring, and evaluation; and education projects. States have used matching funds to supplement the PCSRF investments in thousands of projects, ranging from single culvert replacements to large habitat restoration projects covering hundreds of acres. Significant progress has been made in the PCSRF goals of habitat protection and salmonid recovery, as described in the following sections (Exhibit 2). Specific examples of grantee PCSRF activities are described in the last few pages of this Report.

The PCSRF Goals

Progress is expected on short-term PCSRF goals within approximately 5 years of project implementation. Mid-term goals require between 5 and 15 years of measurements for results to be discernible, while long-term goals require more than 15 years of investments and monitoring to begin to see results.

[5] Pacific Coastal Tribes include the Northwest Indian Fish Commission (NWIFC) on behalf of 20 western Washington treaty tribes (Hoh, Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Puyallup, Quileute, Quinault Nation, Sauk-Suiattle, Skokomish, Squaxin Island, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Swinomish, Tulalip, and Upper Skagit); the Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFWC) on behalf of four Klamath Basin tribes (Hoopa Valley [CA], Karuk [CA], Klamath [OR], and Yurok [CA] tribes); and tribes not associated with a tribal commission (Round Valley Indian Tribes in the Eel River Basin [CA], the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation [WA], Coquille Indian Tribe [OR], the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde [OR], and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians [OR]). Columbia River Tribes include the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) on behalf of four tribes (Nez Perce [ID], Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla [OR], Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs [OR], and the Yakima Nation [WA]); and tribes not affiliated with a tribal commission (Colville Confederated Tribes [WA], and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe [ID]).

[6] Tribes are not required to provide matching funds.

Short-Term Goal: Improve Management Practices

Progress: **Fisheries Management Practices Are Protecting Wild Stocks**

» The PCSRF has contributed to marking more than 200 million hatchery fish over the past 8 years. Fish marking programs allow grantees to estimate fish abundance and support selective fisheries for hatchery fish. These efforts help manage fisheries to protect wild stocks.

» Hatchery improvements are another focus for the PCSRF to improve overall management practices within each watershed. Improvements to hatchery practices and facilities, such as the removal of old equipment and modifications to fish collection protocols, have improved fish supplementation efforts in select watersheds and reduced impacts on wild salmonid stocks.

Short-Term Goal: Address Major Habitat Limiting Factors

Progress: **Watershed Assessments Are Helping Focus Resources on Priority Needs**

» For 27 of the 28 ESA-listed ESUs and DPSs, grantees have developed watershed assessments and watershed-specific recovery plans that identify key factors limiting salmonid recovery. These factors are defined in the Reporting Framework and are used to prioritize recovery actions within each ESU/DPS. By focusing on projects that address these limiting factors, grantees can effectively use funds for projects that have a greater cumulative effect on local populations.

Mid-Term Goal: Improve Status of ESA-Listed Salmonids (increase naturally spawning populations)

Progress: **ESA-Listed Runs Are Improving**

» In the Pacific Coast region, 22 ESUs/DPSs are listed as threatened and 6 ESUs/DPSs are listed as endangered under the ESA. Of these, 20 have more than 10 years of

Salmon Returns Vary by Population

Salmonids have a complex life history, inhabit wide ranges of geography that overlap many jurisdictions, and use a variety of habitats from freshwater streams and rivers to estuaries and the ocean. These factors create a number of challenges for fishery managers attempting to predict annual population numbers and plan effective long-term management strategies. Differences across populations mean that some populations may be more vulnerable to a particular environmental or human-caused ecosystem change than others. The following examples illustrate some of the population variability.

2008 Closure of West Coast Fisheries
In April 2008 the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) closed most of the salmon fisheries on the West Coast south of the Washington/Oregon border in response to the sudden collapse of Sacramento River Fall Chinook salmon and the poor status of many other coho salmon stocks. The PFMC closed commercial and recreational Chinook fisheries south of Cape Falcon, Oregon, and allowed only a limited hatchery coho recreational fishery of 9,000 fish in Oregon. NMFS, at the request of the PFMC, has convened a scientific investigation of the potential causes of the decline of the Sacramento River Fall Chinook stock and an analysis of the potential depression of other salmon stocks.

Record 2008 Columbia River Sockeye Returns
In the summer of 2008 a record number of sockeye salmon returned to the Columbia and Snake River systems. Approximately 250,000 fish returned to the basin, the highest returns on record since 1950. A number of variables may have contributed to the increased number of fish, including more favorable ocean conditions, better outmigration due to increased spill water over the Lower Columbia dams, and increased hatchery output. Returns of the endangered Snake River sockeye population were the highest since 1959.

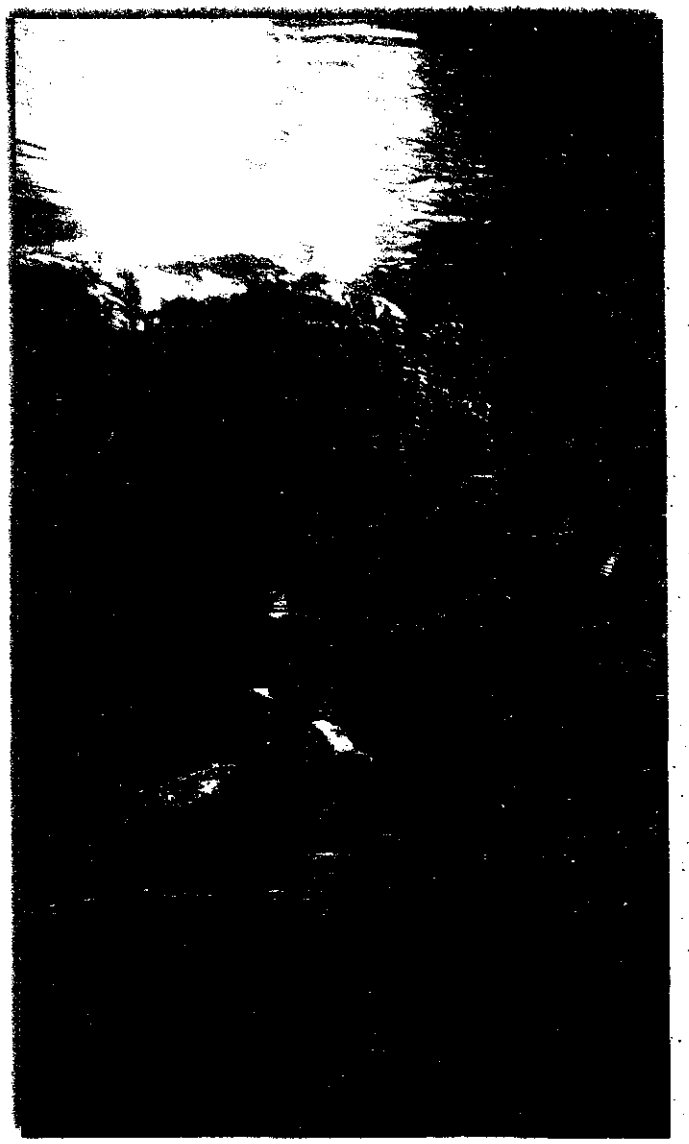
Progress: **Knowledge of Requirements for Recovery and Sustainability Is Improved**

» Technical Recovery Teams (TRTs) have been established in Recovery Domains to provide guidance on the technical and scientific aspects of recovery that will protect and restore salmonid populations. TRTs conduct analyses that identify goals for individual populations to be considered viable and have a negligible risk of extinction based on a number of factors. NMFS is collaboratively developing recovery plans to identify the recovery and restoration actions necessary to address key limiting factors for each population. Plans also prioritize recovery actions for implementation to restore populations to viable levels and enhance their ability to respond to ecosystem changes. The plans play an important role in progress toward recovery and long-term salmonid sustainability. To date, ESA recovery plans have been completed for the following ESUs/DPSs:

- Puget Sound Chinook
- Hood Canal Summer Chum
- Upper Columbia River Spring Chinook
- Upper Columbia River Steelhead
- Lake Ozette Sockeye

A "draft-for-public-review" recovery plan has been released for the Mid-Columbia River Steelhead.

» Data gathered through fisheries and watershed assessments and monitoring are providing information critical to the long-term viability of salmonid populations.



Summary

Since the PCSRF program's inception in 2000, grantees have implemented projects throughout the Pacific Coast region that are contributing to the recovery and sustainability of many salmonid populations. Much of this work has been accomplished by improving degraded instream, upland, riparian, and estuary habitat; improving passage to habitat that was previously inaccessible; and improving the quantity and quality of information for effective management practices. Grantees are working to increase their knowledge of salmonid viability through project effectiveness monitoring which contributes to mid- and long-term PCSRF goals. Progress has been made in the overall recovery and conservation of Pacific salmonids, but continued commitment, collaboration, and resources are required to achieve the goal of full recovery and sustainability.

The NPT initiated a coho salmon restoration project in 1995 with the acquisition and release of 630,000 juvenile coho salmon in five streams in the Clearwater Basin. These were the first coho salmon released in the larger Snake River Basin in 30 years. In 2001 and annually thereafter, the NPT used PCSRF funds to establish the Clearwater River Coho Salmon Reintroduction project to continue to reintroduce and restore coho salmon to abundance and productivity levels sufficient to support sustainable runs and annual tribal and non-tribal harvest. A goal of 14,000 returning adult coho salmon to the Clearwater River has been established in the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-W+it (Spirit of the Salmon) Columbia River Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan.

In 2008, the Clearwater River saw a return of 4,770 coho, the highest since extirpation occurred. This year also marks the highest number of eggs ever collected by the Clearwater Coho Restoration Project (~1.5 million) from returning adults. In December 2008, the NPT began transporting 900,000 eyed-eggs to Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery where they will be incubated and reared until March of 2010. This is an important step forward in re-establishing a wild coho stock in the Clearwater River.

Washington: Protecting Valuable Salmon Habitat Along the Skagit River

The 150-mile-long Skagit River flows south from the Cascade Mountains in Canada, through Washington, emptying into the Puget Sound near Mount Vernon. The Skagit River is the only large river system in Washington that is home to healthy populations of five salmon species (Chinook, coho, chum, pink, and sockeye) and three species of trout (bull trout, cutthroat, and steelhead). The river supports 25 percent of threatened Puget Sound Chinook stocks and the largest bull trout and steelhead populations in Puget Sound. Protecting Skagit River habitat is critically important to ensure the watershed stays a healthy place for salmon to spawn and grow.

In 1998, the Skagit Watershed Council created a habitat protection committee and appointed The Nature Conservancy (TNC) as chair, and the following year adopted a science-based method for assessing and prioritizing the cost-effectiveness of habitat protection actions. The prioritization formula rates parcels based on the quality and quantity of functioning fish habitat, their adjacency to protected areas, their risk of development, and their costs to acquire. Since 2000, Skagit Land Trust and TNC have used this systematic approach to secure nearly $6 million in funds from the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board, including nearly $1.7 million in multi-year PCSRF grants, to inventory, prioritize, and protect more than 1,220 acres along the Skagit River, its tributaries, and wetlands. The Skagit Land Trust focused its efforts on acquiring high-priority floodplain acres in the middle Skagit River, examining 9,500 tax parcels and creating a prioritized list of 197 properties. The land trust and partners contacted landowners to gauge their willingness to sell.

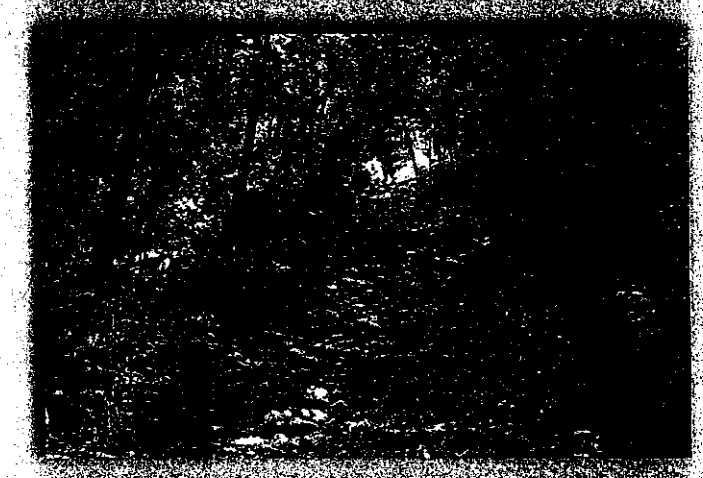
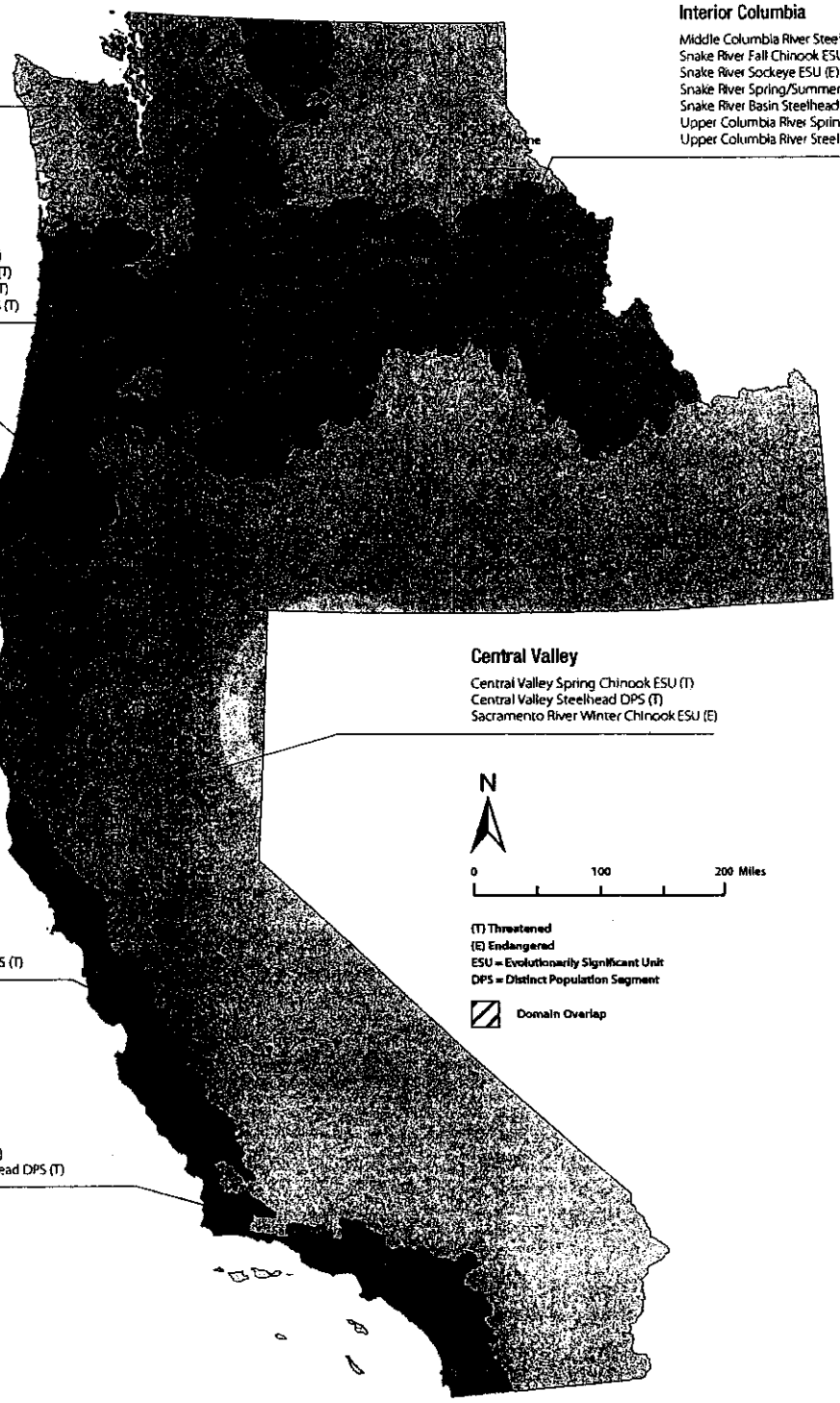
The Skagit Land Trust has protected about 768 acres of habitat to date and is anticipated to purchase an additional 300 acres in the middle Skagit over the next few years. In the upper Skagit River, where a majority of salmon return to spawn, TNC projects have resulted in the permanent protection of 435 acres of the highest-quality Chinook and coho rearing and spawning habitat remaining in the watershed. Today, the map of protected lands along the Skagit River is a jigsaw puzzle of habitat gradually being reunited. This increasingly connected map is the product of collaboration at its best—Skagit Watershed Council, Skagit Land Trust, Skagit County, U.S. Forest Service, Seattle City Light, TNC, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others working together toward a common goal.

Approximately 45,000 cubic yards of fill material was removed from the site, creating terraced slopes on either side of the creek. Erosion control material was also installed. The slopes and floodplain were re-vegetated to reduce sedimentation, stabilize the site, and provide shading for migrating fish. Surveys conducted upstream of the project during the first week in August 2008 documented juvenile steelhead present in upper Corral Creek for the first time since 1913.

California: Whites Gulch Dam Removal

In June 2006, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) awarded PCSRF funds to the Salmon River Restoration Council for the removal of two concrete diversion dams and the relocation of a passive-style screened fish diversion on the Whites Gulch River. The Whites Gulch is located on the Salmon River, a tributary of the Klamath River, in Siskiyou County, California, approximately 50 miles from the Oregon border. Whites Gulch is characterized by thick riparian vegetation and tree-lined streams, ideal for spawning salmon. The original dam was constructed on the river in the late 1800s and was replaced by the current dam in the 1980s. The river was originally home to a large salmon population, supporting a salmon cannery and a sport fishery, but the dams blocked salmon from reaching their upstream spawning habitat, and populations dwindled to low levels.

The upper dam was removed on October 1, 2008, using explosives and with the assistance of many partners including the NOAA Restoration Center, the U.S. Forest Service, Americorps Watershed Stewards, the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, the FishAmerica Foundation, and local Salmon River landowners and contractors. The second dam, located downstream, was removed later in October by local landowners using heavy equipment. The removal of these two dams and of a third barrier downstream re-opened 1.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for spring Chinook, threatened coho and steelhead, and other native fish. The project is also likely to help protect nearby communities by reducing flooding potential caused by the dams.



Pacific Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Domains