

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

2004 Report to Congress

Executive Summary

The annual report to Congress on the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) provides information on the administration of the PCSRF, accomplishments by states and tribes in salmon conservation and recovery using PCSRF funds through December 2003, and recent progress on the newly implemented performance tracking system for the PCSRF. The report also provides an update on the status of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmon and steelhead and the development of recovery plans.

The PCSRF was established by Congress in fiscal year (FY) 2000 to provide grants to Pacific coast states and tribes to assist state, tribal, and local salmon conservation and recovery efforts. The goal of the PCSRF is to make significant contributions to the conservation and restoration of sustainable Pacific salmon and steelhead runs and the habitats upon which they depend. In response to requests by Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in conjunction with the states and tribes, recently identified performance indicators and developed a database for tracking and reporting progress in standardized ways toward the PCSRF goal. With this performance tracking and reporting system now in place, NMFS is working with states, tribes, and local entities to annually report progress and accomplishments on specific annual and long-term performance indicators for better program accountability.

The annual report reflects initial efforts to use the performance tracking and reporting system to assess progress toward the goal through analysis of a consistent set of program-wide performance indicators for PCSRF funded projects. Indicators currently identified focus primarily on activities (inputs and outputs). These indicators will continue to be refined and new outcome measures (e.g., increased salmon populations) will be developed as research, monitoring, and evaluation (RM&E) programs begin to generate results. RM&E programs are needed to address the challenge of the long time scale inherent in salmon recovery efforts. New indicators will also be identified as subbasin and watershed recovery plans identifying limiting factors are completed. Performance indicators that are responsive to limiting factors will be added to the performance tracking and reporting system over time.

Congressional appropriation to PCSRF for states and tribes to achieve the PCSRF goal are shown in Exhibit ES-1. Congress included PCSRF funding for the State of Idaho in the FY 2004 appropriation. Idaho's PCSRF program as well as the other state and tribal FY 2004 programs will be reported in the 2005 Report to Congress.

Exhibit ES-1: Congressional Appropriation of PCSRF Funds (in millions)

	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Washington	\$18.00	\$30.20	\$34.00	\$27.80	\$25.99
Alaska	\$14.00	\$19.50	\$27.00	\$21.90	\$20.65
California	\$9.00	\$15.10	\$17.00	\$13.90	\$12.99
Oregon	\$9.00	\$15.10	\$17.00	\$13.90	\$12.99
Idaho	•	•	•	•	\$4.95
Pacific Coastal Tribes	\$6.00	\$7.40	\$11.00	\$8.90	\$8.41
Columbia River Tribes	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$3.06
Total	\$58.00	\$89.80	\$110.00	\$89.40	\$89.04

The report highlights a number of successful projects that are beginning to show direct benefits to the status of salmon populations, such as salmon using newly opened or improved habitat. The report describes the precarious status of some salmon populations, as well as recent increases in other populations. In many cases, it will take several to many years after restoration and recovery efforts are completed before the accrued benefits to salmon can be shown by increases in salmon abundance.

The report describes 3,213 projects funded with FY 2000–2003 PCSRF and matching state funds through December 31, 2003. Approximately 1,500 of these are salmon habitat protection and restoration projects. The remaining more than 1,700 projects support salmon recovery through watershed planning and assessment, salmon enhancement, research and monitoring, and public education and outreach activities.