

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Performance Goals and Reporting Metrics

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) was established by Congress in FY 2000 to provide grants to the States and Tribes to assist state, local, and tribal salmon conservation and recovery efforts. The PCSRF was requested by the Governors of the States of Washington, Oregon, California, and Alaska in response to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings of west coast salmon populations as well as the harvest restrictions placed on Southeast Alaskan fishers through the 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement. (Note: “salmon” in this document refers to Pacific salmon and steelhead populations)

This document identifies performance goals for the PCSRF along with a set of consistent performance reporting metrics. Aggregation of these project level reporting metrics, combined with larger scale watershed and subbasin assessments and results from monitoring and evaluation efforts, will allow (over the long term) an assessment of program effectiveness in terms of increased numbers of salmon.

Recovery of sustainable salmon populations will likely take decades and require a substantial investment over several salmon life cycles. Nonetheless, it is important to track the work accomplished by current investments and measure activities and changes on a regular basis (i.e., annually). Establishing consistent performance reporting metrics across all states will allow for accountable reporting on investments of PCSRF funds, and begin to identify the long term data sets needed to determine the effectiveness of the program.

The specificity of the goals and reporting metrics contained herein are indicative of the current status of the program. Over time, knowledge gained from watershed and subbasin plans and assessments that identify factors limiting production of fish (limiting factors) will contribute to the ability to set more specific goals against which performance can be reported. In some watersheds, the knowledge to develop specific goals already exists and only need to be documented, while others will require assessments before such specific goals can be developed. The reporting metrics and performance measures will therefore be revised as the program develops to reflect increased knowledge and data availability so that the effectiveness and outcomes of investments can be tracked and the cumulative effects of multiple projects can be assessed over time.

II. OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR PCSRF

The PCSRF has an overarching goal of contributing to the conservation, restoration, and sustainability of Pacific salmon and their habitat. Within this goal, there are five program objectives described below that represent the categories of projects funded with PCSRF funds: 1) salmon habitat protection and restoration, 2) watershed and sub-basin planning and assessments, 3) salmon enhancement, 4) salmon research, monitoring and evaluation, and 5) public outreach and education. Investments in each of these objectives will be measured against the applicable performance goal(s).

1. **Salmon Habitat Protection and Restoration**: Implement habitat protection or improvements that protect and restore ecosystem characteristics and processes and address priority factors limiting or threatening salmon production. Activities include "on-the-ground" projects that protect, preserve, restore, and enhance salmon habitat and watershed functions; and property acquisitions for conserving salmon habitat.

Performance Goals:

1.A. Habitat protection and restoration projects will contribute to increased and sustainable salmon populations by improving or maintaining salmon habitat.

1.B. Habitat protection and restoration projects will address limiting factors as identified in watershed/sub-basin plans or assessments.

2. **Watershed and Sub-basin Planning and Assessment**: Develop comprehensive plans or reports (e.g., sub-basin plans, recovery plans, watershed assessments, habitat inventory reports) that 1) identify and prioritize threats to native salmon restoration and recovery, and 2) address measures and actions on a priority basis needed to eliminate those threats. Activities include recovery planning and assisting with or utilizing Technical Recovery Team (TRT) products, watershed assessments including mapping/inventory for plans, sub-basin planning, development of habitat inventory reports, support for watershed councils, and organizational infrastructure and staffing for local conservation groups and tribal entities.

Performance Goals:

2.A. Projects will contribute to an increase in local and tribal capacity to develop and implement watershed/sub-basin plans.

2.B. Sub-basin plans will be based on technical assessments that identify threats and specific factors limiting production of salmon populations and include 1) an inventory of existing activities; 2) an evaluation of efforts needed to address limiting factors; and, 3) a prioritized list of strategies and actions to improve the management, protection, restoration, and conservation of salmon populations.

3. **Salmon Enhancement**: Conduct activities that 1) enhance depressed stocks of naturally spawning anadromous salmon species through hatchery supplementation; 2) reduce fishing effort on depressed wild stocks; and/or 3) enhance salmon fisheries on healthy stocks in Alaska.

Performance Goals:

3.A. Projects will contribute to rebuilding weak stocks and/or enhancing and sustaining healthy salmon populations.

3.B. Projects will contribute to improving the sustainability of salmon fisheries.

4. **Salmon Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation**: Conduct salmon research and monitoring to 1) assess watershed health and salmon status; 2) monitor and evaluate PCSRF projects; 3) validate the effectiveness of protection and restoration projects; and, 4) implement data requirements of the 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement. At least ten percent of the PCSRF funds should be expended on monitoring and evaluation projects.

Performance Goals:

- 4.A. **Research projects will contribute to the basic understanding of stock condition and abundance and habitat attributes necessary for various life history stages.**
- 4.B. **Monitoring and evaluation projects will contribute to the ability to determine the effectiveness of salmon conservation and recovery efforts.**
- 4.C. **Monitoring projects will be coordinated as part of a comprehensive monitoring strategy or program.**
- 5. **Public Outreach and Education: Educate constituencies on the value of, and actions taken, for conservation, restoration and sustainability of healthy salmon runs and their habitat through workshops, forums, preparation of educational materials, and training activities that encourage citizen participation.**

Performance Goal:

- 5.A. **Projects will improve the public's understanding of their impacts on salmon sustainability.**

III. PERFORMANCE REPORTING METRICS

The reporting metrics below provide the means to consistently report project results by the various entities that receive PCSRF grants. Consistency in reporting will enable NOAA Fisheries to aggregate State and Tribal project data to develop an accurate picture of salmon recovery, conservation, and enhancement efforts under the PCSRF program. How much and to what extent these investments contribute to the goal of conservation, restoration, and sustainability of populations and habitats are considered performance measures and are discussed in the next section of this document. Not all metrics will apply to all projects, but grantees must report on the performance metrics that do apply to each project.

Reporting will include the following general (project description) metrics, as well as the applicable metrics for each project under each objective below:

Project Description - Reporting Metrics for all Projects

- Project identification number
- Project name
- Geographic area (e.g., watershed name)
- Geospatial reference/location (lat/long is preferred - defined as point, line, or polygon)
- Project lead/subgrantee
- Project start and end dates
- PCSRF Objective under which the project is conducted
- Amount of monies allocated (PCSRF and/or State funds)
- Project description
- Expected benefits of the project

Habitat Protection and Restoration Projects - Reporting Metrics

- All Habitat Projects
 - Identify the watershed/sub-basin plan or assessment in which the project is identified as a priority.
 - Name the priority habitat limiting factors identified in that plan that is addressed by the project.
 - Type of monitoring included in the project
 - Design spec achieved
 - Fish movement/abundance
 - # of stream miles treated/affected by the project
- Fish Screening Projects
 - # of screens installed
 - Average and range of flow rate (cfs) of diversions treated
 - Quantity of water protected by screens (acre feet)
- Fish Passage Improvement Projects
 - # of blockages removed
 - # of miles made accessible to salmon
- Riparian Habitat Projects
 - # of miles treated (e.g., fenced) according to plan
 - # of acres treated (e.g., planted) according to plan
 - # of acres of invasive species controlled
- Upland Habitat Projects
 - # of actions (e.g., fencing, road removal)
 - # of acres treated
 - # of miles of road decommissioned, upgraded, or restored (e.g., closed, obliterated, treated)
- In-stream Flow Projects
 - Amount of water (cfs) (average or range) returned to or maintained in stream
 - # of gauges installed
 - Amount of water leased/purchased
- Water Quality Projects
 - Water quality limitations addressed by the project (e.g., 303(d), TMDL)
- Wetland Projects
 - # of acres restored
 - # of acres created
 - # of acres of invasive species controlled
- Estuarine Projects
 - # of acres restored
 - # of acres created
 - # of acres of invasive species controlled
- Land Acquisition/Easements/Leases Projects
 - # of acres protected through land acquisition/easements/leases
 - # of miles of stream protected through land acquisition/easements/leases

Watershed and Sub-basin Planning and Assessment Projects - Reporting Metrics

- Does the project funding support a local/watershed group? (Y/N)
- Plan/assessment in development or completed? (Y/N)
- Does the plan and/or assessment identify/prioritize specific factors limiting the production of populations and ESUs or identify/prioritize conservation opportunities? (Y/N)
- Does the plan and/or assessment incorporate biological goals that respond to Technical Recovery Team recommendations and identify actions needed to meet goals? (Y/N)

Salmon Enhancement Projects - Reporting Metrics

- Does the project rebuild weak stocks or sustain/enhance salmon populations? (Y/N)
- Does the project complement habitat restoration projects? (Y/N)
- # of releases of hatchery fish for the purpose of redirecting fishing effort or stabilizing fisheries and markets in the project
- # of successful releases of hatchery fish for purpose of natural spawning in the project
- # of weak/depressed salmon stocks supplemented that otherwise would limit harvest in the project
- # of releases that compensate for reductions in harvest levels set to meet the Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations
- # of fish raised/marked with PCSRF funds
- Other metrics consistent with performance goals

Salmon Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation Projects - Reporting Metrics

- Is the project directly related to key salmon management questions regarding salmon recovery and/or sustainability of healthy salmon stocks? (Y/N)
- Name the comprehensive monitoring strategy/program the project is a part of.
- # of publications produced reporting on key management or restoration data, information, and needs
- # of applications incorporated into abundance-based management regimes identified in the Pacific Salmon Treaty
- Was information gained on salmon stocks that will reduce the risk of over-fishing? (Y/N)

Public Outreach and Education Projects - Reporting Metrics

- Does the project focus on sustainability, restoration (where needed), and the maintenance of watershed and salmon population health? (Y/N)
- # of workshops / training events held within the project
- # of participants in workshops/training events within the project
- # of publications completed and distributed within the project
- # of schools or classrooms and other institutions reached within the project

IV. PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS REPORTING

The reporting metrics above, which are on a project-by-project basis, will be summarized and analyzed to demonstrate progress and accomplishments in achieving the goals and objectives of the program. Not all effectiveness measures will be reportable initially, but implementation of monitoring and evaluation of projects will provide this information over time. Some additional information may need to come from sources outside of the PCSRF purview (e.g., stream surveys, redd counts, passage information, regulatory program information, other land management

agency projects and activities). Grantees are encouraged to establish linkages with these other sources to ensure effective measures and accurate reporting.

Analysis of the metrics against the goal will result in a numerical performance measure over time for the program. For example, a watershed plan may identify habitat access as a limiting factor, and the assessment reveals 25 known stream blockages that must be removed. The performance reporting metric will be the actual number of blockages removed. An effectiveness or outcome-based performance measure will be presence of increased numbers of fish above the blockages.

Habitat Protection and Restoration (increased fish abundance and productivity)

- # of stream miles treated (all treatments in all projects)
- # of projects done in response to priorities identified in a sub-basin plan or assessment
- # of projects that address habitat-related limiting factors
- # of projects with a monitoring component
- # of miles increased in spawning/rearing areas
- # of stream miles with increased in-stream flow meeting seasonal flow for fish
- # of acres of degraded habitat stabilized
- # miles of stream meeting temperature guidelines
- # of wetland acres improved
- # of discrete habitats reconnected
- Increase in # of returning fish
- Increase in # of out-migrant fish
- Amount of salmon habitat identified and protected under applicable laws

Watershed and Sub-basin Planning and Assessment

- # of new watershed councils and related groups created
- # of watersheds/sub-basins assessed
- # of limiting factors assessments completed
- # of actions implemented by appropriate authority
- # of locally-set-priority projects funded
- # of watershed/sub-basin plans completed
- Progress towards meeting ESU and population recovery goals

Salmon Enhancement

- # of projects that increase naturally spawning populations/stocks
- # of projects that buffer harvest impacts on weak/depressed stocks
- % or quantity of harvest on enhanced stocks
- # of management plans developed to redirect fishing efforts onto enhanced stocks
- # of weak stocks supplemented that show improvement
- # of projects that improve salmon fishery sustainability
- Other measurements on enhancement performance

Salmon Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation

- # of projects that provide information for improved or enhanced salmon stocks
- Increased ability to track and report information
- Increased ability to share data on a broader scale
- # of cooperative local, regional, or interagency efforts that share data
- # of projects with integrated management goals

Public Outreach and Education

- # of people reached by the outreach efforts