

Pacific Salmon Treaty 2019–2028

A shared commitment to a better future for salmon



Introduction

Enhanced federal funding for FY22 resulted in a third successful year in the launch of a package of actions associated with the 2019-2028 update of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). The FY22 appropriations funded critically important actions to meet ESA obligations to conserve and restore Puget Sound Chinook salmon, increase the availability of prey for Southern Resident Killer Whales, and support the Southeast Alaska fishing industry. None of these actions would have been possible without the broad support of salmon conservation and fishery organizations, many west coast communities, and the staunch commitment of Congress.

The FY22 appropriations, however, did not provide the full funding needed to meet PST obligations or fulfill the complete PST package. Only partial funding was provided for salmon conservation actions required by the NMFS biological opinions associated with the update to the PST, new PST obligations to address key science gaps that limit fishery management effectiveness, Chinook salmon hatchery programs in Southeast Alaska, and fishery management activities conducted by the states to implement the PST.

We are now asking for your support to fully fund our shared commitment to a better future for salmon and the communities that depend upon them. To implement all of the PST package in FY23, including the terms of the complex ten-year international treaty and associated biological opinion, we are requesting inclusion of \$43.5 million for the PST in the Department of Commerce appropriation, \$10.01 million in Department of the Interior appropriation, and \$5.50 million in the Department of State appropriation.

Background on Pacific Salmon Treaty

The Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) is critical to meeting the provisions of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), addressing tribal fishing rights, and maintaining sustainable U.S. fisheries that provide 26,700 full time equivalent jobs and \$3.4 billion in economic value annually.

The treaty, signed by United States and Canada in 1985, provides a framework for the two countries to cooperate on the management of Pacific salmon. The PST is revisited roughly every 10 years to reflect current conditions and address new challenges.

Revamped treaty provides hope for salmon, but maintaining successful launch requires FY 23 funding of \$59 million:

- Ensure U.S. meets international obligations
- Fill key science gaps
- Increase prey availability for Southern Resident Killer Whales
- Conserve Puget Sound stocks
- Ensure compliance with the ESA
- Maintain & improve hatchery production of Southeast Alaska Chinook

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The updated treaty addresses conservation needs of the stocks and the PST's objectives to prevent overfishing, provide for optimum production, and for each party to receive benefits equal to the production of salmon originating in their waters.

Revamped Treaty for a Dynamic New Decade

The United States and Canada agreed in 2019 to new coast-wide fishing agreements under the PST.

During talks to revise the PST, commissioners were confronted with dynamic environmental conditions such as wide swings in salmon survival rates, changes in salmon migration patterns, and continued declines in the productivity of wild Chinook salmon in the Salish Sea, as well as the needs of ESA-listed Southern Resident Killer Whales, which depend on Chinook salmon for prey.

In response, the United States and Canada agreed to fishery reductions for both nations, new conservation objectives for several salmon populations, enhanced stock assessments to inform decision-makers in both countries, and to establish a bilateral fund to ensure the effective implementation of fisheries that target marked hatchery-origin salmon.

FY22 Congressional Appropriation

Securing the benefits from our international commitment to a better future for salmon and Southern Resident Killer Whales requires investing in the revamped PST – a short-term investment to ensure a successful start, and an ongoing investment to fund the complex implementation of an international treaty and associated biological opinions.

The FY22 Congressional appropriation for PST implementation included \$39.5 million in Commerce, \$5.5 million in State, \$6.28 million in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and \$4.7 million in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (including \$1.556 million for the Yukon River Salmon Agreement).

With this funding, the United States invested:

- \$19.84 million to implement the biological opinion including habitat restoration projects, hatchery programs to conserve at-risk Chinook salmon stocks from extinction, and new hatchery production to increase the food available for Southern Resident Killer Whales (Commerce funding);
- \$4.84 million in new hatchery production and hatchery research to provide relief for the Southeast Alaska fishing industry (Commerce and Interior funding);
- \$3.99 million to increase the strong science foundation necessary to meet conservation objectives and meet the data intensive provisions of revised agreements under the PST; and
- \$13.77 million in the fishery management programs of the states of Alaska, Washington, and Oregon (Commerce funding) and \$6.48 million to the Tribes (Interior funding), to conduct monitoring and sampling activities necessary to implement the PST.

These critically important actions were only possible through the efforts, support, and commitment of Congress.

Fiscal Years 2022 through 2029

The 30-year history of the PST is impressive. Both nations have worked hard to put the “fish wars”, including blockage of marine traffic, behind us. To build on these achievements and fully implement the PST, the non-federal Commissioners are requesting \$59 million in annual funding. The request is summarized below and additional information may be found on the pages listed after each funding component.

| Funding Category | Commerce | | Interior | | State | | Total | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | FY22 Funded | FY23 Request | FY22 Funded | FY23 Request | FY22 Funded | FY23 Request | FY22 Request | FY22 Funded | FY23 Request |
| PST Implementation Base Funding | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>States (pgs. 1–4)</i> | \$13.77 | \$21.40 | | | | | \$14.73 | \$13.77 | \$21.40 |
| <i>Tribes (pg. 5)</i> | | | \$6.48 | \$6.69 | | | \$6.33 | \$6.48 | \$6.69 |
| <i>USFWS & PSMFC</i> | | | \$0.38 | \$0.38 | | | \$0.60 | \$0.38 | \$0.38 |
| Subtotal | \$13.77 | \$21.40 | \$6.86 | \$7.07 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$21.66 | \$20.63 | \$28.47 |
| Biological Opinion Risk Reduction | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>PS Hatchery Conservation Programs (pg. 6)</i> | \$3.17 | \$3.06 | | | | | \$3.06 | \$3.17 | \$3.06 |
| <i>PS Habitat Restoration (pg. 7)</i> | \$10.40 | \$0.00 | | | | | \$10.40 | \$10.40 | \$0.00 |
| <i>Southern Resident Killer Whale Prey (pg. 8)</i> | \$4.47 | \$4.47 | \$1.80 | \$1.80 | | | \$7.35 | \$6.27 | \$6.27 |
| <i>PS Critical Stocks- Habitat Protection (pg. 9)</i> | \$0.00 | \$2.33 | | | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2.33 |
| Subtotal | \$18.04 | \$9.86 | \$1.80 | \$1.80 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$20.81 | \$19.84 | \$11.66 |
| Southeast Alaska Chinook Mitigation (pg. 10) | | | | | | | | | |
| | \$4.11 | \$5.99 | \$0.73 | \$0.73 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$4.64 | \$4.84 | \$6.72 |
| Sound Science (pg. 11) | | | | | | | | | |
| | \$3.58 | \$6.25 | \$0.41 | \$0.41 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$6.35 | \$3.99 | \$6.66 |
| International Obligations (pg. 12) | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Bilateral Obligations</i> | | | | | \$3.77 | \$3.55 | \$3.97 | \$3.77 | \$3.55 |
| <i>U.S. Section Costs</i> | | | | | \$1.73 | \$1.95 | \$1.22 | \$1.73 | \$1.95 |
| Subtotal | | | | | \$5.50 | \$5.50 | \$5.19 | \$5.50 | \$5.50 |
| Total | \$39.50 | \$43.50 | \$9.80 | \$10.01 | \$5.50 | \$5.50 | \$58.65 | \$54.80 | \$59.00 |

¹ Excludes \$1.556 million for the Yukon River Salmon Agreement that was a component of the \$4.7 million mitigation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appropriation for National Fish Hatchery System Operations.

PST IMPLEMENTATION BASE FUNDING

Implementation: State of Alaska

FY23 Funding Request: \$9,071,000^{1/2}

Current Funding Department: Commerce

Project Description: Alaska is engaged in 3 chapters of the PST, which requires participation in 2 bilateral panels and 8 bilateral technical committees, as well as fisheries management and research to implement these chapters.

Chapter 1: Transboundary Rivers requires abundance-based management of Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon returning to the Taku, Stikine, and Alek rivers based upon specified stock assessments, conservation measures, and harvest sharing agreements.

Chapter 2: Northern Boundary defines obligations that limit interceptions of: (1) Canadian Nass and Skeena origin sockeye salmon in Southeast Alaska fisheries and (2) Alaskan origin pink salmon in Canadian fisheries. The obligations include providing forecasts, fishery monitoring, catch sampling for age and origin, and extensive bilateral coordination.

Chapter 3: Chinook Salmon is complex– it lists individual stocks or stock groups with specific management and monitoring measures and lists extensive assignments to the Chinook Technical Committee. Obligations include annual estimation of catch for all PST fisheries, exploitation rates, escapements, and forecasts.

ADF&G completed in 2017 a detailed assessment of the costs of the international obligations to the agency through a position-by-position accounting of salaries, benefits, and goods and services for activities that are necessary to fulfill PST obligations. The total cost of these activities exceeded \$9.0 million and, after consideration of inflation, costs now exceed \$10.3 million annually.

Funding is requested for \$9,071,000 with the expectation that funding from the State of Alaska and other Treaty-related grant programs would be available to fill the remaining gap.

Implementation activities include:

- Participating in technical committees, panels, and Commission meetings;
- Monitoring the number of Chinook, Coho, and Sockeye salmon spawning in rivers;
- Pre-season forecasting of the abundance of salmon stocks and comprehensive, coastwide planning;
- In-season catch monitoring and fishery sampling and to collect information for post-season assessments of compliance with PST obligations;
- Post-season assessments of fishery exploitation rates, stock composition, and other biological information;
- Assessing factors limiting the survival of salmon and contributing to declines in productivity and abundance.

Importance to PST: This funding is critical for providing the data, analyses, and bilateral coordination essential to implementing Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: Failure to fully fund these activities will result in the U.S. not meeting PST obligations. Inadequate funding may increase risks to wild stocks and trigger more conservatively managed fisheries resulting in lost fishing opportunity and associated economic impacts.

¹ Includes an annual Department of Commerce appropriation for International Fisheries Commissions (Transboundary Rivers).

² Does not include NOAA Fisheries administrative costs.

PST IMPLEMENTATION BASE FUNDING

State of Washington

FY23 Funding Request: \$8,691,756¹

Current Funding Department: Commerce

Project Description: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and treaty tribes have the responsibility for the preponderance of the U.S. fishery and stock assessments in Washington. In addition, WDFW participates on a number of Panels and Committees to assist the Pacific Salmon Commission in implementation of the Chinook, Chum, Coho, and Fraser Sockeye chapters.

WDFW completed in 2017 a detailed assessment of the costs of the international obligations to the agency. Costs were identified through a position-by-position accounting of salaries, benefits, and goods and services and other costs for activities that are necessary to fulfill PST obligations. The total cost of these activities exceeded \$8.7 million and, after consideration of inflation, costs now exceed \$10.5 million annually.

Funding is requested for a state implementation grant of \$8.7 million with the expectation that funding from other PST grant programs would be available to fill the remaining gap.

Implementation activities include:

- Participating in technical committees, panels, and Commission meetings;
- Pre-season forecasting of the abundance of salmon stocks and comprehensive, coastwide planning;
- In-season catch monitoring and fishery sampling;
- Post-season assessments of fishery exploitation rates, stock composition, and other biological information;
- Assessing factors limiting the survival of salmon and contributing to declines in productivity and abundance;
- Providing information on the vital importance of habitat protection and restoration; and
- Monitoring the number of Chinook and Coho salmon spawning in rivers.

Importance to PST: This funding is essential to implement the fishery and stock assessments required to implement and evaluate the international obligations of the PST, and to provide for the participation of WDFW in the committee, panel, and commission implementation meetings.

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: Failure to fully fund these actions will result in the U.S. not meeting the PST obligations. In particular, compliance with obligations for southern U.S. fisheries would not be assessed, and the adaptive management provisions of the Chinook Chapter could not be implemented. This would put ESA-listed Chinook salmon and Southern Resident Killer Whales at greater risk of extirpation.

¹ Does not include NOAA Fisheries Administrative costs.

PST IMPLEMENTATION BASE FUNDING

State of Oregon

FY23 Funding Request: \$3,285,000¹

Current Funding Department: Commerce

Project Description: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and treaty tribes have the responsibility for the preponderance of the fishery and stock assessments in Oregon. In addition, ODFW participates on a number of Panels and Committees to assist the Pacific Salmon Commission in implementation of the Chinook, chum and coho salmon chapters.

ODFW completed in 2017 a detailed assessment of the costs of the international obligations to the agency. Costs were identified through a position-by-position accounting of salaries, benefits, and goods and services and other costs for activities that are necessary to fulfill PST obligations.

The total cost of these activities exceeded \$3.3 million and, after consideration of inflation, costs now exceed \$3.7 million annually, not including the millions of dollars spent each year in the production of Chinook and coho salmon from ODFW hatcheries, much of which is subsequently caught in Alaskan and Canadian fisheries.

Funding is requested for a state implementation grant of \$3,285,000 with the expectation that funding from other PST grant programs would be available to fill the remaining gap.

Implementation activities include:

- Participating in technical committees, panels, and Commission meetings;
- Pre-season forecasting of the abundance of salmon stocks and comprehensive, coastwide planning;
- In-season catch monitoring and fishery sampling;
- Post-season assessments of fishery exploitation rates, stock composition, and other biological information;
- Assessing factors limiting the survival of salmon and contributing to declines in productivity and abundance; and
- Monitoring the number of Chinook and Coho salmon spawning in rivers.

Importance to PST: This funding is essential to conduct the fishery monitoring and stock assessments required to implement and evaluate the international obligations of the PST, and to provide for the participation of ODFW employees in various Committee, Panel, and Commission meetings. The assessment and monitoring programs conducted are critical to ensuring the long-term productivity and sustainability of Oregon salmon stocks, which contribute to Treaty-area fisheries and support the international agreement.

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: Failure to fully fund these activities will result in the U.S. not meeting PST obligations. Compliance with PST obligations for southern U.S. fisheries monitoring, as well as stock status and productivity of key stocks, would not be assessed. Management measures needed to ensure long-term sustainability of these stocks may not be applied and the adaptive management provisions of the PST Chinook and coho chapters may not be implemented. Reduced funding may increase risks to wild stocks and consequently trigger more conservatively managed fisheries, which may result in fewer fishing opportunities and associated economic impacts to Oregon coastal communities.

¹ Does not include NOAA Fisheries administrative costs.

PST IMPLEMENTATION BASE FUNDING

State of Idaho

FY23 Funding Request: \$355,609

Current Funding Department: Commerce

Project Description: The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and treaty tribes have the responsibility for the preponderance of the fishery and stock assessments in Idaho.

Current implementation activities include:

- Marking approximately 110,000 summer Chinook salmon at the McCall Fish Hatchery and approximately 110,000 spring Chinook at the Rapid River Hatchery;
- Monitoring the number of Chinook salmon spawning in over 600 miles of rivers and collecting biological information on the size, age, and sex of the spawning salmon;
- Coordinating Chinook marking, fishery sampling, and fishery management with tribal, state, and federal fish managers; and
- Participating on the bilateral Chinook Technical Committee to support implementation of the Chinook chapter of the PST.

The Commissioners are requesting \$355,609 to maintain IDFG's contribution to the coastwide assessment of indicator stocks and fisheries.

Importance to PST: Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 requires the State of Idaho to advise the Secretary of Commerce of all pertinent laws or regulations pertaining to the harvest of Pacific salmon in order to fulfill article IV(7) of the PST.

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: Failure to fully fund this request would reduce the ability of the Idaho to coordinate monitoring and fishery management activities with the other states, tribes, and federal government, including participation in PST technical committees. Funding is essential to ensure that implementation of the updated Chinook salmon provisions of the PST do not result in unacceptable risks to ESA listed Snake River Chinook Salmon.



Electro-fishing team sampling juvenile Chinook salmon in Camas Creek, Idaho. Photo: NOAA Fisheries

PST IMPLEMENTATION BASE FUNDING

Tribes

FY23 Funding Request: \$6,690,000

Current Funding Department: Interior¹

Project Description: A unique relationship exists between the tribes and the federal government due to treaties, federal statutes and court rulings. This trust responsibility establishes legal obligations of the federal government to the tribes, including the protection of their treaty-reserved fishing rights. Although tribes are sovereign nations, the U.S. has a trust responsibility to the tribes to protect tribal trust resources and treaty rights. The Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 names 25 directly affected tribes and provides for tribal representatives at the Commission level.

The western Washington and Columbia River Stevens-Palmer treaty tribes participate on a number of panels and committees to assist the Pacific Salmon Commission in implementation of the Chinook, Chum, Coho, and Fraser Sockeye chapters. This participation is essential to ensure that the PST is implemented in a manner consistent with the reserved rights of the tribes and to provide for an equitable sharing of harvest. The tribes also are responsible, with the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, for the stock and fishery assessments required for the implementation of the PST. The Metlakatla Indian Community is located on Annette Islands and is the only Indian Reserve in the State of Alaska. Fishing is important contributor to the economy of the Metlakatla Indian community.

The Commissioners request \$6,690,000 million to ensure effective implementation of the federal trust responsibility.

Importance to PST: The participation and support of the Treaty tribes is essential to successfully implement the PST.

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: Failure to fully fund the tribal request would raise risks that tribal participation and support of the PST would be compromised. In addition, several cases in federal court are on stay as long as the PST is successfully implemented. Failure to successfully implement the PST would result in the litigation of these cases going forward.



The Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 names 25 directly affected tribes and provides for tribal representation at the Commission level.

¹ \$200,000 of funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appropriation for implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

BIOLOGICAL OPINION IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

Puget Sound Critical Stock Hatchery Conservation Programs

Funding Request: \$3,060,000

Current Funding Department: Commerce

Project Description: This funding will preserve at-risk Puget Sound Chinook salmon stocks through the implementation of hatchery conservation programs. The programs target stocks that are at a high risk of extinction, such as the South Fork Nooksack, South Fork Stillaguamish, Dungeness, and Mid-Hood Canal. By spawning some of the returning adults in the hatchery, and rearing the progeny in the hatchery before they migrate to the ocean, survival rates are increased relative to natural production. This allows us to preserve the unique genetic characteristics of these stocks until habitat productivity improves. The Nooksack, Stillaguamish, and Dungeness programs are ongoing, while a Mid-Hood Canal conservation hatchery program is under consideration to address the limited spawners in recent years

The biological opinion associated with the 2019-2028 update to the PST identifies these programs as part of a funding initiative to reduce the risks to Puget Sound Chinook salmon.

Funding for these programs would continue to be distributed through grants to federal, tribal, and state hatchery operators in Washington. Eligible expenses would include staffing, feed, disease treatment, marking and tagging, facility improvements to allow for increased production, and associated administrative costs.

Importance to PST: This funding is essential to implement the risk mitigation measures identified in the biological opinion, reduce the likelihood that NOAA Fisheries reinitiates consultation under the ESA, and ensure that implementation of the updated Chinook salmon provisions of the PST do not result in unacceptable risks to Puget Sound Chinook salmon.

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: Failure to fully fund the new hatchery production for would increase risks to Puget Sound Chinook salmon and may trigger re-initiation of the Section 7 consultation under the ESA.



The South Fork Nooksack hatchery conservation program has staved off Chinook extinction and increased the effective population size by fourfold. Photo: Lummi Nation

BIOLOGICAL OPINION IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

Puget Sound Critical Stock Habitat Restoration

FY23 Funding Request: \$0

Funding Investment to Date: \$31,200,000

Total Implementation Cost: \$31,200,000

Current Funding Department: Commerce

Project Description: Funding provided in FY22 completed the \$31.2 million investment in habitat restoration projects for at-risk Puget Sound Chinook salmon stocks identified in the biological opinion. More broadly, improvements in habitat conditions should contribute to prey abundance for Southern Resident Killer Whales over the immediate and long term.

Projects included constructing engineered log jams and reconnecting the flood plain to restore stable spawning and rearing habitat, restoring estuaries to provide essential rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon as they leave rivers and initiate their marine migration, and removing the dam blocking Chinook salmon access to the Middle Fork Nooksack River (see videos at https://youtu.be/NqXykK9I_bM and https://youtu.be/wvKdtMQ_Ih8).

Funding for selected projects were distributed through grants to state, local, and tribal entities engaged in habitat restoration.

Importance to PST: Funding of habitat restoration projects in FY20-FY22 implemented the associated risk mitigation measures identified in the biological opinion.

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: Funding for this component was completed with the FY22 appropriation.



A Pacific Salmon Treaty grant of \$2 million contributed to restoring access of spring Chinook salmon to the Middle Fork Nooksack River. Photo: American Rivers

BIOLOGICAL OPINION IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

Southern Resident Killer Whale Prey

FY23 Funding Request: \$6,270,000

Current Funding Department: Commerce, Interior¹

Project Description: This funding will support new hatchery production to provide increased prey for Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKWs). SRKWs are listed as Endangered under the ESA and in 2018 the abundance declined to the lowest number in more than 30 years. A contributing factor to the decline is a lack of sufficient Chinook salmon to feed SRKWs in Puget Sound during the summer months and along the west coast of Washington in fall, winter, and spring.

The biological opinion associated with the 2019-2028 updates to the PST includes a provision seeking a meaningful increase (approximately 20 million juveniles) in Chinook salmon hatchery production as a risk reduction measure. The increased production is being implemented in a manner that is consistent with sustainable fisheries and stock management, available habitat, recovery plans, and the ESA.

Funding is being distributed through grants to federal, local, tribal, and state hatchery operators in Washington and Oregon annually. Eligible expenses include staffing, feed, disease treatment, marking and tagging, facility improvements to allow for increased production, and associated administrative costs.

Importance to PST: This funding is essential to implement the risk mitigation measures identified in the biological opinion and ensure that implementation of the updated Chinook salmon provisions of the PST do not result in unacceptable risks to SRKW.

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: Failure to fully fund the new hatchery production would increase risks to SRKW and may trigger re-initiation of the Section 7 consultation under the ESA.



The funding initiative seeks an annual 20 million increase in hatchery releases of Chinook salmon to provide prey for SRKW.

¹ \$1,800,000 of funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appropriation for implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

BIOLOGICAL OPINION IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

Puget Sound Critical Stock Habitat Protection

FY23 Funding Request: \$2,330,000

Project Description: The Chinook salmon fishery obligations of the PST assume that the productivity of Puget Sound Chinook critical salmon stocks will, at worst, not decline during the 10-year period covered by the PST chapter updates. This funding will provide enhanced habitat protection, as discussed in the biological opinion, so that investments in habitat restoration are not offset by further habitat degradation and losses in the production of ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook.

This funding will aid local efforts to protect habitat and promote public support for salmon and killer whale-friendly environmental conditions. Despite significant investments in habitat restoration, ongoing degradation threatens the quality and diversity of natural habitats necessary to maintain salmon in the Puget Sound region. Improved habitat protection is essential to prevent further losses in the productivity of Puget Sound Chinook, maximize the benefits of habitat restoration, and ensure that the PST fishery management obligations remain sufficient over the 10-year term of the agreement.

The four-pronged strategy will: 1) promote support for salmon and Southern Resident Killer Whales friendly environmental practices; 2) assist local governments and land management agencies in developing and implementing environmentally sound land management practices; 3) protect existing habitat through acquisitions or other measures; and 4) improve compliance with state and federal fish protection regulations.

Funding for these activities would be distributed to WDFW through the annual PST implementation grant.

Importance to PST: The actions will reduce the likelihood that NOAA Fisheries reinitiates consultation under the ESA and that implementation of the updated Chinook salmon provisions do not result in unacceptable risks to Chinook salmon or Southern Resident Killer Whales.

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: Failure to fully fund this task will mean that previous investments in habitat restoration are more likely to be offset by reductions in habitat quality in other locations in each watershed. Habitat degradation reduces the productivity of Puget Sound Chinook salmon stocks, reduces the effectiveness of fishery management measures, and undermines the ability of the Parties to achieve the principles and objectives of the PST.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Fishery Mitigation

FY23 Funding Request: \$6,720,000

Funding Investment to Date: \$15,688,000

Total Implementation Cost: \$22,400,000

Potential Funding Department: Commerce

Project Description: The Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Fishery Mitigation Program was established in 2009 to mitigate economic impacts of the 15% reduction in Chinook salmon harvest levels under the 2009 revision of the PST. This program continues due to an additional 7.5% reduction in Chinook harvests under the 2019 revision of the PST. Alaska’s willingness to accept a 7.5% reduction was predicated, in part, on a mitigation package to offset economic consequences.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) was designated as the State entity to receive and administer funds. ADF&G is advised by a Stakeholder Panel of sport, troll, gillnet, seine, hatchery operator, and community representatives. The Panel identified the following programs that would provide economic benefits to offset the losses to PST harvest shares:

- **Hatchery fish marking, tagging, and evaluation** – Alaska is held accountable for gaps in its information by what is known as the risk factor. In short, the risk factor considers potential errors in Alaska’s data and reduces Chinook harvest levels accordingly. Alaska is interested in expanding its hatchery marking and tagging rate to reduce the annual risk factor and expand access to hatchery-produced fish.
- **Hatchery enhancement projects** – Alaska is interested in replacing as much as possible of the 7.5% reduction with increased hatchery production. Hatchery production will be expanded across seven locations for an increase of up to 2.5 million yearling releases per year.
- **Hatchery Research.** Alaska is interested in developing new hatchery brood stocks and conducting critical hatchery-related research to better understand marine survival to help increase fishing opportunity.

Importance to PST: There is agreement among the parties in the U.S. Section for funding important U.S. interests. This includes \$22.4 million for Southeast Alaska to help mitigate the substantial reductions in Chinook harvests that was agreed to in order to facilitate the Canadian reductions required to address ESA issues in the Pacific Northwest.

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: Alaska’s willingness to accept a 7.5% reduction to Chinook fisheries was predicated, in part, on a mitigation package to offset economic consequences.

FY20, FY21, and FY22 Investments

| | |
|---|---|
| ✓ | \$4,700,000 supported the construction of two automated tagging trailers, tagging supplies, and marking and tagging operations. |
| ✓ | \$10,438,000 is being used to expand hatchery infrastructure to accommodate increases in salmon production. |
| ✓ | \$550,000 is being used to conduct hatchery-related research designed to improve our understanding of hatchery survival. |

Filling Key Chinook Salmon Science Gaps

FY23 Funding Request: \$6,660,000

Current Funding Department: Commerce

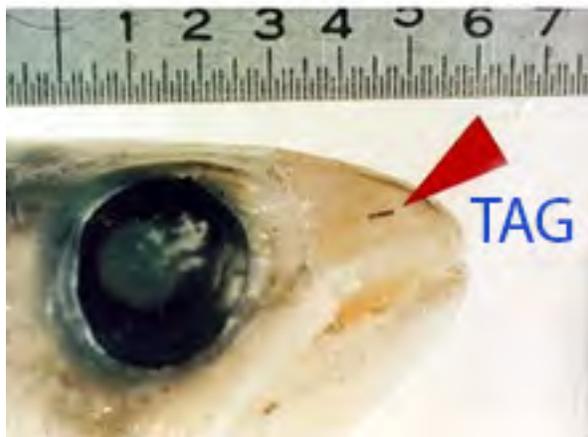
Project Description: The PST rests on a strong scientific foundation, yet key gaps exist in our ability to fully implement the 2019 PST updates. Implementation of the 2019 updates to the Chinook Chapter requires numerous types of data and assessments of Chinook salmon indicator stocks. The goal of this program is to improve the data quality and availability for Chinook salmon in a manner that provides scientifically defensible stock assessment and promotes a sustainable abundance-based management system.

In addition, Canada is now moving toward broader implementation of mark selective fisheries (MSF) to focus harvest on abundant hatchery fish while releasing wild Chinook salmon. That will require, in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska, the consistent implementation of programs (marking, tagging, fishery sampling, and analytical methods) necessary to rigorously assess impacts on wild Chinook salmon.

This program is designed to improve and augment stock assessment for Chinook salmon with adequate fiscal resources consistent with the revised Chapter 3. Program components include: (1) improvement of escapement estimates for Pacific Salmon Commission indicator stocks such that they meet bilateral standards for accuracy, (2) improvement of catch accounting, (3) augmenting coded-wire tag sampling of fisheries such that it meets coastwide standards, (4) increasing the number of exploitation stocks used to represent distribution and harvest, (5) examining the representativeness of exploitation rate indicator stocks, (6) development of analytical tools for Chinook Technical Committee use to improve estimation of harvests and exploitation rates, and (7) improvement of methods for abundance-based management.

Importance to PST: The efficacy of the PST for supporting an abundance-based regime is directly tied to the quality, availability, representativeness, and timeliness of escapement, catch, and coded-wire tag indicator data. These information sources are used to forecast run sizes, estimate exploitation rates, set harvest limits, and ultimately used to evaluate compliance under the PST

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: The data and analyses supported by this program form the backbone of the coastwide abundance-based management regime. Failure to fully fund improvements to the data quality and availability for Chinook would compromise the ability of the U.S. to meet harvest-sharing obligations specified in the PST as well as conservation objectives which would increase risks to ESA-listed stocks.



Coded-wire tags are one tool used to monitor where and at what rate Chinook salmon are caught in fisheries. The tags are implanted in the heads of juvenile Chinook salmon before release from hatcheries or in juveniles captured in rivers.

INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

U.S. Section Operations

FY23 Funding Request: \$5,497,000

Current Funding Department: State

Project Description: This request supports the U.S. share of joint Pacific Salmon Commission expenses; compensation to non-governmental U.S. commissioners, panel members, and alternates while conducting PSC duties; and travel and expenses of U.S. participants as required under the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act.

The PST obligates the Pacific Salmon Commission to prepare an annual budget of joint expenses and submit it to the Parties for approval. The Parties are required to bear the costs of the budget in equal shares unless otherwise agreed.

The Pacific Salmon Commission is administered through a Secretariat in Vancouver, Canada. The 26 Secretariat staff members include administrative and scientific professionals who facilitate meetings, provide scientific assessments, run field programs and maintain extensive archives dating back to the early 20th century.

The U.S. treaty-mandated assessed contribution to the Pacific Salmon Commission is anticipated to be \$3,550,000 in FY23, a decrease of \$220,000 over FY22 levels. This represents the U.S. share under the new long-term funding arrangement that will support the core work of the Pacific Salmon Commission, including the programmatic work associated with the recently renewed stock management annexes to the U.S.-Canada PST.

The funding will also support the necessary work to enable the implementation of agreed stock management measures, including test fishing needed to monitor the size and distribution of the various salmon stocks. This is particularly important for the management of the Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon fisheries. Secretariat staff play an important role in collecting and synthesizing the stock and fishery assessment data that are used by the Fraser Panel for the intensive, bilateral, inseason fishery management. Salmon fishing in Alaska, Washington, and Oregon is a \$1 billion industry and contributes tens of thousands of jobs for Americans engaged in tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries and related activities.

Importance to PST: The Secretariat is fundamental to the ongoing implementation of the PST and the management of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon. Travel support is fundamental to ensure U.S. interests are represented.

Consequences of Not Fully Funding: Failure to fully fund the request would jeopardize the functionality of the Secretariat, the management of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon, and the ability of U.S. delegates to meaningfully participate in PST meetings.

| Program | FY 22 Amount | FY 23 Request |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| U.S. Share of Joint Expenses | \$3,772,000 | \$3,550,000 |
| U.S. Section Operations | \$1,728,000 | \$1,947,000 |
| Total FY23 Request | \$5,500,000 | \$5,497,000 |