

PCSRF Background

March 2009

The negotiations surrounding the Pacific Salmon Treaty and litigation by Pacific Northwest interests regarding Alaska's activities on shared salmon resources contributed to considerable tension and controversy in the 1980s and 90s. In recognition of the need to find a more cooperative way to work on coast-wide salmon issues, the Governors of Washington, Oregon, and Alaska met in Sitka in 1997. One of the outcomes of that meeting was agreement to work to secure a significant endowment to assist in coast-wide efforts to provide more salmon resources and salmon harvest opportunities in the area covered by the Pacific Salmon Treaty Region.

While the endowment model did not come to fruition, negotiation of the 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement and continuing Endangered Species Act (ESA)-related issues in the Pacific Northwest and California led to the creation of the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) in the federal fiscal year (FFY) 1999 Commerce Department budget. The eligible recipients under this fund were the states of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska, and a number of Columbia River Tribes. Idaho was added in the last three appropriations.

The Department of Fish and Game has been designated as the lead agency for administration of the PCSRF program in Alaska. Projects in a number of categories have been funded through the congressional appropriations received thus far. The broad funding categories are Salmon Research and Monitoring, Habitat Stewardship and Restoration, Increasing Economic Opportunities for Southeast Alaska Salmon Fishermen, and Cooperative Salmon Habitat and Stock Projects.

Alaska's program differs considerably from those of the other states and the tribes. We do not have any ESA-listed species in Alaska, and generally have favorable habitat conditions for salmon. Our program is based primarily on needs for assessments of salmon stocks and salmon habitat, stewardship of those resources, and the importance of maintaining the economy in Southeast that is dependent upon our wild salmon. The PCSRF authorizing language speaks to implementation of the 1999 salmon treaty; and mitigation of impacts on our salmon industry in Southeast is part of that implementation. We stress that part of salmon sustainability is having a healthy salmon industry and salmon-dependent communities.

ADF&G's Memorandum of Understanding with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) required advisory panel processes to make recommendations in response to calls for proposals to ADF&G's Commissioner for funding that came to the State that was not earmarked by Congress. (All unearmarked funding was utilized only in Southeast Alaska.) In the early years of the program, fisheries economic development projects were recommended by a Stakeholders Advisory Panel and in the later years, by the Fish Cabinet. Throughout the life of the program, the multi-agency Science Panel has provided recommendations on the scientific projects.

Additional program information, including funded project lists, can be found on ADF&G's Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF) web site at:
<http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/ssf/ssf.php>.

AKSSF Current Process & Future Prospects

March 2009

Current

In the FFY 08 budget, Congress did not earmark PCSRF, not even to the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) states and Pacific Northwest treaty tribes for whom the appropriations were initially intended. The States and tribes were required to submit applications for funding through a “merit-based awards process.” A new requirement of this appropriation was a mandatory 33% non-federal match on the federal funds received.

Alaska initially applied for the \$18 million. We were notified by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that this application was rejected and were instructed to re-apply for \$14.5 million, and were again advised that Alaska would not be funded for “increasing economic opportunities.” Our application was approved, and contingent upon utilization of competitive proposal processes for allocation of funds, we received the following:

- \$4.120 million to the PST region (Southeast Alaska) for projects related to treaty implementation and salmon sustainability,
- 1.030 million for salmon sustainability outreach and education;
- \$1.605 million to ensure long-term program viability and monitoring; and
- \$7.744 million for salmon sustainability projects outside the PST region north of Cape Suckling.

Because of the lengthy and comprehensive process utilized in developing the gap analysis framework, the *Sustainable Salmon Strategy for Southeast Alaska – 2002* and the successful Southeast Science Panel process used to identify priority information needs/issues and project funding recommendations, ADF&G developed a similar process west of Cape Suckling. A multi-agency Expert Panel was tasked with working with regional experts to undertake gap analyses than were possible in the time frame provided last year in order to identify priority information needs/issues. This work guided development of focused FY 2010 AKSSF calls for proposals for the Southcentral, Arctic-Kuskokwim-Yukon, and Westward regions of the state for *Habitat, Wild Stocks, and Salmon Management Systems* goals. As a result of this work, three regional calls for proposals were issued in September 2008, resulting in the submission of 31 responsive proposals. The Expert Panel further refined scoring criteria to assist ADF&G with selection of high quality priority projects, utilizing independent expert scoring teams of five members for each of the calls for proposals. Proposals have been scored, scoring recommendations have been reviewed and approved by Commissioner Lloyd, and 20 projects are in the process of being established.

The process previously utilized in Southeast Alaska was again undertaken, with a call for proposals going out in September 2008. Twenty responsive proposals were received, with funding recommendations made by the Science Panel and accepted by Commissioner Lloyd for 17 of them. Also funded were 16 PST implementation projects deemed by the Commissioner as necessary for meeting State obligations under the PST.

An additional statewide call for habitat proposals was undertaken in September 2008 to utilize previously unused FFY 07 funds. This call resulted in 30 responsive proposals and 16 funded habitat projects now in the process of establishment.

The calls for proposals referenced above can be viewed on the AKSSF website at: <http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/sssff/sssff.php>.

Future

Congress approved \$67 million for PCSRF in FFY 09, again with the 33% non-federal match requirement. The PST states and Pacific Northwest treaty tribes again had to submit competitive grant applications to NMFS by February 17, 2009.

There have been significant efforts the past three years to restrict the use of PCSRF to restoration and protection of endangered salmon species. The Conference Committee Report language for the FFY 09 fiscal year contains \$80 million for PCSRF, but contains the very restrictive language that, if included in the final legislation, could seriously impact Alaska's access to receive PCSRF since it has no endangered salmon species. We are working with Congressional staff on the inclusion of language that would enable Alaska's continued access to the funds.

While it appears from the Federal Register Notice that we can again apply to utilize PCSRF for the broad programmatic areas of "salmon habitat restoration, salmon stock enhancement, sustainable salmon fisheries, and salmon research," NMFS does, however, emphasize in its *Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity* that its priorities for uses of PCSRF are:

1. Recover, conservation and maintenance
 - a. Recovery and conservation of salmon and steelhead that are listed as threatened or endangered, or identified by a state as at-risk to be listed.
 - b. Maintenance of salmon and steelhead populations necessary for exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing.
2. Habitat protection and restoration for salmon and steelhead.

ADF&G has applied under the broad interpretation of the application for PCSRF, and as required by the grant, to utilize the competitive proposal processes used for last year's calls for proposals. Our application for FFY 09 funding was in the amount of \$16 million. Funding levels will not be finalized until after passage of final Congressional appropriations.

FFY 08 W of Suckling
Funded Projects

Title	PI	Agency	Proposed funding amount (including ADF&G 3%)	Region
Genetic Analysis of Chinook Bycatch	Jeffrey Guyon	NMFS ABL	\$62,418	AYK
Kuskokwim River Sockeye Salmon	Kevin Schaberg	ADF&G CF	\$368,363	AYK
subtotal			\$430,781	
Bristol Bay Fishery Selection	Neala Kendall	UW SAFS	\$98,319	SC
	Greg Ruggerone	Natural Resource Consultants		
Bristol Bay Sockeye Productivity			\$156,294	SC
High Resolution SNPs for Sockeye	Jim Seeb	UW	\$322,929	SC
	Greg Ruggerone	Natural Resource Consultants		
Improve Salmon Forecast Accuracy			\$41,867	SC
Kenai Smolt Abundance - Phase 3	Mark Willette	ADF&G CF	\$726,878	SC
Kvichak Smolt Study	Tim Baker	ADF&G CF	\$230,115	SC
Nushagak Chinook Genetics Baseline	Tim Baker	ADF&G CF	\$115,112	SC
Remote Video Escapement Monitoring	Ted Otis	ADF&G CF	\$80,346	SC
Salmon Habitat Restoration from RCG	Jennifer McCard	KWF	\$56,587	SC
Salmon Habitat Stream Temperature	Jeffrey Davis	ARRI	\$92,978	SC
SC Hydrologic and Adjudication Support	Tom Cappiello	ADF&G SF	\$15,038	SC
Susitna River Coho & Chum Abundance	Rick Merizon	ADF&G SF	\$1,597,036	SC
Susitna Sockeye Salmon Escapement	Paul Blanche	CIAA	\$933,949	SC
Susitna Sockeye Salmon Production	Mark Willette	ADF&G CF	\$1,557,169	SC
Yentna Fish Wheel Selectivity	Mark Willette	ADF&G CF	\$964,344	SC
	Suzanne Maxwell			
Yentna Sonar Error Estimation		ADF&G CF	\$637,196	SC
subtotal			\$7,626,157	
Genetics of Westward Chum Salmon	Lisa Seeb	UW SAFS	\$308,282	W
subtotal			\$308,282	
TOTAL			\$8,365,220	

Southeast Region
AKSSF 2009 Non-Treaty projects list

Project Proposal	PI	Agency	Total Cost	Project Years (State Fys)
ACWA Grants RSA to DEC	Cappiello	ADFG SF	\$50,000	FY10
Auke Creek Salmonids Monitoring	Joyce	NOAA Auke Bay Lab, TSMRI	\$84,200	FY10-FY11
Chickamin Coho sampling	Johnson	ADFG SF	\$60,459	FY10
Chilkat Salmon Assessment - Fish Wheels	Bachman	ADFG CF	\$262,000	FY10-FY11
Chuck Creek coho CWT and expansion	McCurdy	ADFG SF	\$79,826	FY10
Disappearance Creek Chum Weir	Piston	ADFG CF	\$209,633	FY10-FY11
Effects of enhancement on wild coho, Part 2	Gray	NOAA Auke Bay Lab	\$41,320	FY10-FY11
Effects of hatchery strays on wild Chinook	Thrower	NOAA Auke Bay Lab, TSMRI	\$99,956	FY10-FY12
Evaluation of Age-0 smolt strategy	Rabung	Armstrong-Keta	\$140,840	FY10-FY12
Genetic changes assoc w in-basin supplementation of sockeye salmon, Phase 2	Smoker/Gharrett	UAF	\$124,288	FY10
Hydrologic & Adjudication Support	Johnson	ADFG SF	\$15,038	FY10
Instream Flow Quantification & Protection	Johnson	ADFG SF	\$187,460	FY10
McDonald Lake Sockeye	Gilk	ADFG Gene Lab	\$128,524	FY10
Nakwasina River coho escapement	Tydingco	ADFG SF	\$40,000	FY10
Salmon Habitats of the Taku River	Nichols	ADFG SF	\$294,712	FY10-FY11
SEAK Subsistence Sockeye	Conitz	ADFG CF	\$73,500	FY10
Stress Effects & Mass Marking in Salmon	Oxman	ADFG CF	\$87,865	FY10-FY11
Documenting Anadromous Waters SE	Ott	ADFG Habitat	\$1,498,814	FY10-12
Haines Salmon Distribution Assessment	Shields	Takshanuk Watershed Council	\$29,546	FY10-12
SECM Sampling & pink salmon forecasting	Orsi	NOAA Auke Bay Lab, TSMRI	\$54,000	FY10
			\$3,561,981	

Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund
Southeast Region -- Year 8 Year 9

Pacific Salmon Treaty Projects

AKSSF - PST Projects								
Agency	Project Proposal	PI	Total Cost (incl. ADF*G 3%)	Project Years	AKSSF Year of Funding	Applied for NF		
AKSSF Year 8 Projects								
NOAA Auke Bay Lab	ABL N. Boundary Sockeye District 101/4 - FY10	Guyon	\$201,500	FY10-11	Year 8			
ADFG SF	Chickamin River Chinook - FY10	Johnson	\$95,378	FY10	Year 8	*		
ADFG SF	Chilkat Chinook CWT - FY10	Chapell	\$99,518	FY10	Year 8	*		
ADFG SF	Chinook ASL - FY10	Weller	\$72,921	FY10	Year 8			
ADFG CF	CTC Biometrician II - FY10	Carlile	\$53,123	FY10	Year 8			
ADFG CF	SEAK Chinook GSI Sampling-Archiving - FY10	Reynolds	\$50,400	FY10-11	Year 8	*		
ADFG CF	Mark Tag & Age Lab Support - FY 10	Josephson	\$75,000	FY10	Year 8			
ADFG CF	NBTB Sockeye Scale Sampling & Analysis - FY10	Oliver	\$360,357	FY10	Year 8			
ADFG CF	Salmon Aerial Surveys - FY10	Heinl	\$107,628	FY10	Year 8			
ADFG CF	Sockeye matched sampling - FY10	Reynolds	\$178,723	FY10	Year 8	*		
ADFG SF	Taku River Smolt & Escapement - FY10	Jones	\$65,790	FY10	Year 8	*		
TOTAL Year 8			\$1,360,338					
AKSSF Year 9 Projects								
ADFG SF	Chilkat River Smolt CWT - FY10	Chapell	\$104,917	FY10	Year 9			
ADFG SF	Chinook ASL - FY11	Weller	\$73,983	FY11	Year 9			
ADFG CF	Mark Tag & Age Lab Support - FY11	Josephson	\$78,000	FY11	Year 9			
ADFG CF	FY11	Oliver	\$372,653	FY11	Year 9			
ADFG CF	Salmon Aerial Surveys - FY11	Heinl	\$108,356	FY11	Year 9			
TOTAL Year 9			\$737,909					

**FFY 08 Statewide Habitat
Funded Projects**

Title	PI	Agency	Funded amount (including ADF&G 3%)	Region
Anadromous Cataloging in Western AK	Joe Buckwalter	ADF&G SF	\$95,560	AYK
Fairbanks Restoration Cost Share	Dean Hughes	ADF&G SF	\$172,857	AYK
Fairbanks Restoration Workshop	Dean Hughes	ADF&G SF	\$12,748	AYK
subtotal			\$281,165	
Fish Passage Restoration - Coal Creek	Cecil Rich	ADF&G SF	\$190,850	SC
Homer Restoration Workshop & Access	Dean Hughes	ADF&G SF	\$30,521	SC
Matanuska River Spawning Distribution	Jeffry Anderson	USFWS	\$240,355	SC
Mat-Su Basin Anadromous Waters Catalog	Theresa Tanner	USFWS	\$75,522	SC
Mat-Su Instream Flow Protection	Tom Cappiello	ADF&G SF	\$72,998	SC
Southcentral Cost Share Program	Dean Hughes	ADF&G SF	\$270,818	SC
Substantiation of the AWC in Southcentral AK	J. Johnson	ADF&G SF	\$27,017	SC
Wasilla Creek Flow Protection	Jason Mouw	ADF&G SF	\$26,574	SC
subtotal			\$934,655	
Instream Flow Protection	Shawn Johnson	ADF&G SF	\$187,460	SE
Instream Flow Protection FY 11	Shawn Johnson	ADF&G SF	\$195,391	SE
Instream Flow Protection FY 12	Shawn Johnson	ADF&G SF	\$152,259	SE
Klawock Causeway Fish Passage	Ann Wyatt	KWC	\$194,293	SE
Southeast Restoration Cost Share	Dean Hughes	ADF&G SF	\$100,809	SE
Southeast Restoration Workshop	Dean Hughes	ADF&G SF	\$12,748	SE
subtotal			\$842,960	
Westward Region Limnology	Heather Finkle	ADF&G CF	\$284,424	W
subtotal			\$284,424	
TOTAL			\$2,343,204	