2014

NOAA FISHERIES

WEST COAST REGION

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund advances the protection, restoration, and conservation of Pacific salmon and their habitats. The program also plays a vital role in supporting the economies of local communities from California to Alaska, upholding Tribal Treaty fishing rights and subsistence fishing traditions, and restoring salmon populations to productive and viable levels along the entire West Coast.

A $1 million investment of PCSRF & state matching funds results, on average, in 17 new "green" jobs and $1.86 in additional economic activity.

Economic Benefits of Salmon Restoration

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Pacific salmon and steelhead are much more than essential elements of a healthy Pacific Coast ecosystem; they are cultural icons woven into the fabric of local communities and economies. Salmon runs tie the region's people to the landscape, but pressures from a changing environment and human activities have compromised the strength of these runs. The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) was established by Congress in 2000 to reverse the declines of Pacific salmon and steelhead, supporting conservation efforts in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho. The program is essential to preventing the extinction of threatened and endangered populations and, in many cases, has stabilized the populations and contributed to their recovery course.

Guiding Restoration Through Science & Collaboration

Over the past 14 years, PCSRF catalyzed the development of a vibrant community of salmon restoration experts and fostered indispensable partnerships among land owners, local governments, and state, tribal, and federal agencies. The collaborative nature and strong scientific foundation of PCSRF restoration efforts ensures that funds are effectively and efficiently benefiting salmon populations and their habitats.

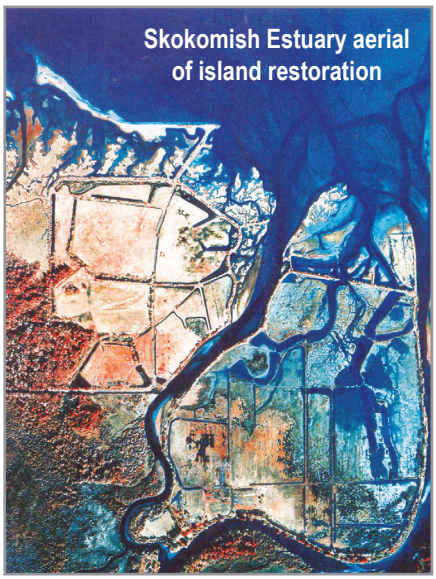
Leveraging Funds & Stimulating Local Economies

NOAA Fisheries, the agency charged with administering PCSRF's competitive grants process, has awarded states and tribes a total of over $1.1 billion since the program's inception. The program has also leveraged over $1.3 billion in total state in-kind, and other matching, funds. These investments have significant impacts on local economies and support local job development. Recent analyses suggest that on average 17 new "green" jobs (Edwards et al. 2012) and $1.86 million (Nielsen-Pincus and Moseley 2009) in additional economic activity result for each $1 million investment of PCSRF and state matching funds.

Every dollar invested in salmon restoration travels through the economy in several ways: Restoration project managers hire consultants, contractors, and employees to design, implement, and maintain projects; consultants and contractors hire field crews, rent or purchase equipment, and buy goods and services; and employees spend wages on goods and services to support their livelihoods in their own community (Nielsen-Pincus and Moseley 2009).

On-the-Ground Success

With this funding and these jobs, states and tribes have undertaken over 11,000 projects, resulting in significant changes in salmon habitat conditions and availability. Since 2000, access to over 1 million acres of spawning and rearing habitat has been restored and protected for salmon and now they can migrate through 8,000 miles of previously inaccessible streams.


Skokomish Estuary aerial of island restoration

In 2010, for example, Washington State and the Skokomish Tribe restored the natural tidal hydrology to 214 acres in the Skokomish Estuary with the help of PCSRF dollars. This estuary provides important habitat for listed Puget Sound Chinook, Hood Canal summer-run chum, and Puget Sound coho. By removing dikes, levees, and roads, this project not only benefits listed salmon but other aquatic species because it improves riparian habitat and water quality conditions.

Skokomish Estuary after restoration

Middle Fork John Day River before

The program has also established robust planning and monitoring programs to support prioritization and tracking. For example, a 2010 monitoring project sponsored by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board assessed the effectiveness of existing restoration strategies to identify future priorities in the Middle Fork John Day River Basin. Past restoration efforts typically did not include monitoring to determine if restoration actions deliver measurable benefits to fish populations. Intensively monitored watersheds are a tool used to detect the linkages among restoration, habitat changes, and fish populations. The Middle Fork John Day River Basin is one of these intensively monitored watersheds and this monitoring project, with the help of PCSRF funds, documents improvements to salmon habitat and assesses

Middle Fork John Day River after reconfiguration to emulate historical path and condition

how restoration actions affect the health of salmon at a large scale. To date, results indicate that ten years of restoration in the watershed has improved water and habitat quality, as well as fish migration opportunities. This knowledge will guide priorities for future restoration investment decisions.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Recovery is Underway

Recovering vulnerable salmon and steelhead populations is a long-term effort that requires focus, dedication, and consistency. Recovery will take decades to achieve, but significant progress has been made because of PCSRF support. For example, coho salmon in Idaho's Clearwater and Snake River subbasins were declared extinct in 1986. Through the Clearwater River Basin Coho Restoration Project, the Nez Perce Tribe began reintroducing coho salmon, and in 2011 over 5,300 adult fish returned. PCSRF has been the only source of funding for this project since 2001, contributing $4.9 million. The benefits of this effort are two-fold: tribal members are exercising their treaty reserved fishing rights; and coho are once again spawning in the wild.

Looking to the Future

Recovering West Coast salmon and steelhead populations provides long-term economic stability, allows the United States to honor its commitment to tribal reserved fishing rights, and affords maximum regulatory flexibility. Achieving these objectives is made possible with support from PCSRF.

PCSRF Performance Measures FY 2000-November 2013

Output	Indicator	Completed
Instream Habitat Projects	Stream Miles Treated	1,898
Wetland Habitat Projects	Acres Created	218
	Acres Treated	6,061
Estuarine Habitat Projects	Acres Created	2,304
	Acres Treated	4,689
Land Acquisition Projects	Acres Acquired or Protected	155,321
	Stream Bank Miles Acquired or Protected	6,450
Riparian Habitat Projects	Stream Miles Treated	9,338
	Acres Treated	84,929
Upland Habitat Projects	Acres Treated	453,410
Fish Passage Projects	Number of Barriers Removed	2,811
	Stream Miles Opened	8,083
	Number of Fish Screens Installed	1,838
Monitoring Projects	Stream Miles Monitored	421,714

Recent data illustrate that commercial, recreational, and tribal salmon fisheries on the West Coast generated $120 million in personal income in 2012, which supported 4,000 full-time jobs. The economic value of Alaska salmon fisheries in 2011 was $714 million, supporting approximately 24,000 jobs (Fisheries data pers. comm. Steve Freese, NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region Senior Economist). Salmon fisheries are important economic drivers and as the stocks grow and recover, so too will the economic gains and long-term fishing opportunities.

Salmon fisheries also hold significant importance to West Coast Indian Tribes. For generations, they have harvested salmon for cultural ceremonies, subsistance, and commerce, and many tribes hold treaty reserved rights to fish in their "usual and accustomed" places. Recovering listed salmon populations protects and honors the tribes' treaty reserved rights to harvest these stocks, as they have done from time immemorial.

PCSRF is the most powerful tool for advancing salmon recovery and improving the status of vulnerable West Coast salmon and steelhead populations. Improving the status of the populations and reducing their extinction risk affords NOAA Fisheries more flexibility in implementing the Endangered Species Act and its accompanying regulations and protections. When populations are at lower levels of risk, NOAA Fisheries is able to minimize restrictions on agriculture, municipalities, fishing communities etc., while ensuring that actions do not jeopardize listed species. This flexibility is critical when dealing with catastrophic events, such as droughts. It allows the agency to avoid dracronian restrictions that would impose harsh economic impacts.

PCSRF's role in restoring the region's salmon runs to healthy, viable levels is critical; but just as important is the program's role in supporting the economies and traditions of local communities, from California to Alaska, today and into the future.