

Pacific Salmon Treaty

FY2001 Request: \$14,000,000

Reference No: AMD 33647

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Planning

Category: Development

Location: Statewide

Contact: David Benton

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact Phone: (907)465-6136

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2000 - 06/30/2005

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The federal fiscal year 2000 (FY00) appropriations legislation established a Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and appropriated a total of \$58 million for the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California, as well as the treaty fishing tribes in the Pacific Northwest. Coordination of the fund is through the respective Governor's offices. The Alaska portion of the federal FY00 appropriation is \$14 million.

Funding:	<u>FY2001</u>	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$14,000,000						\$14,000,000
Total:	\$14,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Project Description/Justification:

Summary of the Federal Fiscal Year 2000 Authorization and Appropriation

The purpose of the fund is articulated in the federal legislation: "For salmon habitat restoration, salmon stock enhancement, salmon research, and implementation of the 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement."

The federal FY00 legislation also put in place several requirements relating to the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund:

1. A 25 percent non-Federal match requirement. This amounts to a \$3.5 million in-kind or direct match for the Alaska fund. The State intends to provide an in-kind match consisting of existing State salmon expenditures in the Pacific Salmon Treaty region (east of Cape Suckling), and in-kind and cash contributions from cooperators in salmon research, restoration and enhancement. This approach assures there will be no general fund impact to the State of Alaska.
2. A limitation that not more than 3% of the \$14 million Alaska appropriation be spent on administrative expenses. This caps State administrative expenses at \$420,000 for the Alaska appropriation and assures that expenditures will fund real on-the-ground projects and research.
3. A State-Federal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is strongly advised in the federal legislation. The FY00 language specifically states the MOU should not require federal approval of State projects funded by the FY00 appropriation, but should "define strategies" for effective use of the funds.

4. A Progress Report to Congress and the federal Department of Commerce is required by September 1, 2000. The state will make this report available to the Alaska Legislature and other concerned parties in order to ensure broad understanding of and participation in the salmon research, restoration and enhancement effort.

5. Allowance for expenditure outside Alaska. This allows Alaska the option of partnerships with Canadian, northwest states, or treaty fishing tribes to restore salmon habitat of concern to Alaska fishermen and managers, even if the habitat needing restoration is not in Alaska.

The Alaska Pacific Coastal Salmon Fund

The State intends to apply the salmon funds over a five-year period to address, primarily in Alaska east of Cape Suckling, the authorized objectives of salmon habitat restoration, salmon research, and salmon stock enhancement. The effort will engage experts in biological and fisheries science along with Alaska fishing stakeholders and community leaders in an open public process that will identify priority needs and opportunities. The overall objective will be to assure that southeast Alaska's salmon fisheries are sustainable and continue to provide jobs and income for Alaskan families. A second important objective will be to engage residents of Alaska coastal communities in implementation of funded projects. Funding for restoration projects will be focused on local hire and jobs in Alaska coastal communities in order to maximize benefits to Alaska in terms of employment and local business opportunities.

Benchmarks for application of the salmon fund in State fiscal year 2001 are:

1. Prepare State-Federal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defining strategies for effective salmon research, habitat management and restoration, and stock enhancement.
2. Convene a biological science and fisheries panel to advise the State on salmon research needs, opportunities and priorities.
3. Complete a regional salmon habitat assessment and recommendations for salmon habitat restoration projects.
4. Convene a stakeholders panel to formulate priority recommendations for measures contributing to the economic and biological sustainability of salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska.
5. Establish a forum whereby Alaska coastal community leaders and residents in the Pacific Salmon Treaty region may collaborate with the State, fisheries stakeholders, and scientists regarding priorities, research, and implementation of habitat projects and enhancement efforts.
6. Approve State FY01 project recommendations and begin funding and implementation.
7. Prepare a progress report to Congress, the federal Department of Commerce, and the Alaska Legislature.

The Office of the Governor, through the Office of Management and Budget and with the science advisors, will provide overall administration and accountability in accord with the general intent of the federal legislation. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) will coordinate the biological science and fisheries advisory panel, the stakeholders panel, a forum for local community participation, and--pursuant to the required MOU, the National Marine Fisheries Service. Based on that coordination, ADF&G will make annual or periodic funding recommendations to the Governor. Consistent with applicable laws and regulations, the State may award grants, direct funding to State agencies, or enter into contracts to implement the priority recommendations regarding salmon habitat, research, and enhancement.

ADF&G will draft an annual report to Congress and the federal Department of Commerce, and the concerned public in consultation with the Governor's Office, the biological science panel, the stakeholders panel, interested local communities, and other concerned parties. ADF&G will make this report available to the Legislature. The report will mark the progress of current efforts, evaluate projects funded and completed, and will provide information on salmon habitat, populations and fisheries in a manner designed to inform citizens and policy makers about the status of salmon and important watersheds for anadromous fish in the Pacific Salmon Treaty region of Alaska.

The Administration will pursue the concept of establishing an Alaska marine science endowment for habitat protection, rehabilitation, scientific research and monitoring of southeast Alaska watersheds and marine resources. If the federal

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government provides additional funding for the Pacific Salmon Treaty as promised, then these funds have potential to help seed such an endowment, an opportunity which will be analyzed in State FY01.