



FY2006 Budget Highlights

National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Salmon Program

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), also known as "NOAA Fisheries," requests \$157 million (M) in FY'06, reflecting a net increase of \$19.5M over the FY'06 BASE level for its West Coast Pacific salmon program. This will support the enhanced operations of the NOAA programs.

FY 2006 Program Changes

An increase of \$19.5M is requested for Pacific salmon research, conservation, and recovery. Of this amount, \$8.5M is for Endangered Species Act (ESA) Pacific salmon recovery and \$11.0M is for the implementation of the Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion.

The FY 2006 increase of \$8.5M for a total of \$51.2M is requested for Pacific Salmon ESA Recovery and Research. This funding is for implementation of ESA responsibilities for 26 Pacific salmonid populations throughout the West Coast. These listings encompass approximately 40 percent of the land base of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California.

Principal areas of the ESA Pacific salmon recovery program include development of recovery plans at the sub-basin level with local entities; Section 7 consultations across the landscape including urban and municipal development, forestry, grazing, highways, industrial activities, agriculture, recreation, fisheries, and port activities; salmon habitat assessments; risk assessments; research on salmon population dynamics; permitting and development of regulations; enforcement; and legal support. The ESA program is important to support consistent, long-term, and scientifically-based salmon restoration and recovery policy decisions.

\$2.0M of this increase is for necessary costs to meet court-ordered time lines to conduct ESA section 7 consultations with EPA. These consultations are required by rulings on pesticide lawsuits in California, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington State. To date, NOAA Fisheries has received over 500 requests for consultation from EPA on approximately 40 pesticides subject to the aforementioned litigation. Annually, NOAA Fisheries anticipates reviewing at least 100 pesticides for EPA.

NOAA Fisheries requests a total of \$15.1M with an \$11.0M increase for implementation of the Federal

Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) and associated activities. The Federal government has set an ambitious basinwide strategy to recover 12 populations of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in the Columbia/Snake River Basin while leaving hydroelectric dams in place. The FCRPS BiOp includes requirements to implement aggressive measures to improve survival of fish passing through the dams, as well in salmon habitat away from the dams. NOAA Fisheries will undertake a rigorous comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program to track and assess achievement of the performance standards in the BiOp and the status of populations, and assist state and local entities in developing and implementing sub-basin recovery plans that identify limiting factors and actions necessary to restore salmon populations.

NOAA Fisheries is requesting a total of \$90M for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), which is allocated to the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, and Idaho, and to Pacific coastal and Columbia River tribes in accordance with Congressional direction. The PCSRF, established by Congress in FY 2000 at the request of the State governors, has funded over 1,500 salmon habitat restoration projects and over 600 enhancement, planning, assessment, monitoring and research activities supporting salmon recovery. The PCSRF supplements existing federal-state-tribal-local partnerships in salmon recovery and conservation; and promotes efficiencies and effectiveness in recovery efforts through enhanced sharing and pooling of capabilities, expertise and information.

The NOAA Fisheries Pacific salmon program has made great progress in recent years in improving the timeliness and quality of section 7 consultations and the issuance of section 10 permits. With the help of constituents, NOAA Fisheries is also making progress towards completion of high quality, defensible recovery plans. ESA listed Pacific salmon stocks are now more abundant than they were before ESA listing, in some cases up to 800% over recent lows. These increases are due in part to investment in the ESA Pacific salmon recovery program, restoration actions, and conservation partnerships. NOAA Fisheries must continue to invest in the program to ensure that recovery remains on track.

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