

## Chapter 5: Conclusions



The PCSRF has provided funding support to the Pacific coast states and tribes to assist state, tribal, and local salmon conservation and recovery efforts in accordance with Congressional and Administration direction since inception in FY 2000. A total of \$347.2 million has been appropriated to the PCSRF program through FY 2003, and these funds were allocated to the states and tribes as set forth in the Congressional appropriations. The FY 2000 through FY 2003 funds were distributed to projects in accordance with MOUs between NMFS and the states/tribes that establish criteria and processes for prioritizing disbursement of the PCSRF funds to priority salmon recovery and conservation projects and activities. Due to the lateness of grant issuance in FY 2003, not all of the PCSRF funds were committed to projects and activities by December 31, 2003. About 85 percent of the funds were committed by the end of 2003 to 3,213 projects.

The states, tribes, and NMFS developed a comprehensive performance tracking system for the PCSRF in 2003 in response to requests by Congress and OMB for better and more consistent program accountability. The data system developed for the performance indicators is available to the public at: <http://webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/pcsrfl/>. Although it is still too early in the performance reporting process to draw conclusions about the contributions of PCSRF projects to salmon recovery and conservation, progress is being made and on-the-ground habitat changes will become obvious over the next few years.

The PCSRF is making progress toward the goal of significant contributions to the conservation and restoration of sustainable Pacific salmon runs and the habitats upon which they depend. Over 3,200 projects and activities have been funded with PCSRF and state funds, demonstrating collaboration and the leveraging of resources to achieve common goals in the recovery and conservation of Pacific salmon. Many PCSRF projects have shown success in providing direct benefits to salmon, such as salmon using newly opened or improved habitat. Increased returns have been reported for many of the ESA listed ESUs. However, in many cases, it will be several to many years after restoration and recovery efforts are complete before the accrued benefits to salmon can be documented through direct changes in salmon abundance.

The majority of the PCSRF funds has been spent on habitat restoration activities as this is where the greatest needs exist for salmon recovery. Many miles of habitat have been opened to fish, and miles of stream beds have been restored. Fish screens have been installed, culverts have been cleared and replaced, inaccessible habitat has been re-opened, banks have been stabilized, and channels reconfigured. Exhibit 5-1 shows the overall distribution of PCSRF funds and investments in program objectives. The PCSRF program has filled a vital planning need in its support of local and tribal recovery planning and infrastructure building so the long-term goal of salmon recovery can be achieved. Policy and science-based groups across the region are working on plans, strategies, and critical actions to address factors that limit recovery. As watershed and subbasin plans are developed, progress will be shown through the identification of actions needed to ensure overall

**Exhibit 5–1: PCSRF and State Funds (in millions) Committed by Objective**

		Habitat Protection & Restoration	Watershed Planning & Assessment	Salmon Enhancement	Research, Monitoring, & Evaluation	Public Outreach & Education	Total
<b>PCSRF</b>	Washington	\$61.15	\$28.34	\$2.53	\$9.37	\$0.00	<b>\$101.39</b>
	Oregon	\$7.16	\$22.78	\$3.44	\$14.59	\$5.06	<b>\$53.03</b>
	California	\$25.78	\$9.34	\$0.18	\$2.49	\$1.47	<b>\$39.26</b>
	Alaska	\$2.65	\$10.82	\$29.79	\$16.13	\$2.87	<b>\$62.26</b>
	Columbia River Tribes	\$4.11	\$0.95	\$3.55	\$2.31	\$0.13	<b>\$11.05</b>
	Pacific Coastal Tribes	\$3.65	\$8.45	\$3.18	\$7.86	\$0.36	<b>\$23.50</b>
	Total PCSRF Funds	\$104.50	\$80.68	\$42.67	\$52.75	\$9.89	<b>\$290.49</b>
State Matching Funds		\$118.62	\$33.02	\$0.37	\$11.84	\$1.06	<b>\$164.91</b>
<b>Total PCSRF &amp; State Funds</b>		<b>\$223.12</b>	<b>\$113.69</b>	<b>\$43.04</b>	<b>\$64.59</b>	<b>\$10.95</b>	<b>\$455.40</b>

recovery and conservation of salmon and through the measures taken with PCSRF funding to address those needs.

At the same time that PCSRF investments are contributing to salmon recovery, improvements in other activities such as hydropower, hatcheries and harvest are being made. These activities, in conjunction with the specific projects funded by the PCSRF, require continued monitoring, reporting, and evaluation to assess interactions, priorities, and progress on these many fronts. PCSRF has a goal that at least 10 percent of the PCSRF funds be allocated for coordinated monitoring and evaluation of salmon recovery efforts. As of December 2003, 14 percent of the PCSRF and state funds have been used for RM&E projects. This validation monitoring, coupled with watershed assessments that delineate the factors limiting recovery, will provide the complementary scientific basis to move forward on the path to recovery.

## Performance Measures

Significant steps have been taken toward the establishment of a consistent set of reporting indicators that allow for individual state and tribal project actions to be rolled up at different scales, such as ESUs, recovery domains, or regionally. A total of 70 performance indicators were identified in 2003, and the states/tribes already have made data available on almost half of them. While all of these performance indicators cannot be reconstructed from projects completed before the performance system was implemented, and they currently focus on outputs and do not completely address outcomes, they are creating a baseline against which to measure progress. The development of annual and long-term performance measures over the next few years, based on research, monitoring, and evaluation currently underway, will enhance the assessment of progress toward the PCSRF goal of salmon sustainability. The aggregation of performance indicators is beginning to provide a summary picture of salmon recovery and conservation efforts along the Pacific coast that will be tied directly to changes in productivity in salmon populations.