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**Salmon to benefit as new Canada/U.S. Pacific Salmon Treaty funding flows**

The Pacific Salmon Commission is pleased to announce the awarding of more than \$5.1 million (\$3.9 million U.S) to support 63 projects to help salmon in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Alaska. The funding comes from income earned by two endowment funds – the Northern Fund and the Southern Fund – established as part of the 1999 Agreement between the United States and Canada under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The projects will assist salmon, directly and indirectly, by improving information for fishery management, restoring salmon habitat, and enhancing production of salmon within the area covered by the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Hopes are high that this will be just the beginning of a long and growing list of projects to be supported by annual grants from the two endowment funds.

The endowment funds are managed and projects are selected by two six-member bilateral committees – the Northern Fund Committee and the Southern Fund Committee – established by the two countries to oversee investments by the funds and choose which projects would be funded each year. The committees work in close cooperation with the bilateral Pacific Salmon Commission based in Vancouver, B.C., and share administrative support with the Commission.

“We are pleased and excited to now begin the funding of so many deserving projects that will certainly benefit the salmon resources over time” said Rollie Rousseau, U.S. co-chair of the Southern Fund Committee. “The Northern and Southern Funds allow and require the bilateral cooperation that is so necessary given the interdependence of both Canada and the United States on the free swimming salmon resource” said John Lubar, Canadian co-chair of the Northern Fund Committee. Ron Kadowaki, Canadian co-chair of the Southern Committee, added “Canada views these Funds as increasingly important given the growing challenge to maintain healthy salmon stocks and habitats for the benefit of citizens in both countries”.

The Commission was established in 1986 to oversee implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Treaty fell on hard times through much of the 1990’s when disagreements between Canada and the United States over sharing of the catch and management of the fisheries resulted in the expiration of many of the original fishing regimes. Since the 1999 Agreement, the treaty has operated much more smoothly, in part because of the establishment of the two endowment funds.

In 1999, the United States agreed to capitalize the two endowment funds over a four year period with approximately \$140 million U.S., with \$75 million U.S. going into the Northern Fund and \$65 million U.S. into the Southern Fund. The Canadian Government also contributed \$500,000 Canadian. Because only the earnings from the funds’ investments can be spent and it took time to accumulate earnings, this year’s projects are the first selected for funding. “Our plan is to grow the principal of the funds over time to provide a growing stream of funding each year for salmon projects” said Jim Balsiger, U.S. co-chair of the Northern Fund Committee

In selecting projects for this inaugural round of funding, the Northern and Southern Fund Committees requested the advice of the Pacific Salmon Commission’s Panels and Technical Committees, recognizing that they were well placed to identify priority stocks and habitats, the information needs of the Parties, and other requirements for implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

The Southern Fund Committee will support a total of 41 projects for \$2.6 million Canadian (\$2 million U.S.). Proponents include Canadian and U.S. government agencies, tribes and First Nations, fishermen's associations, academic institutions and community groups from B.C. and Washington and Oregon States. These include:

- A project to test new sonar technology to improve the accuracy of in-season estimates of total salmon escapement in the Fraser River that will help managers develop and adjust in-season fisheries management plans based on more accurate data inputs.
- A feasibility assessment to determine if fishwheels, which have proven to be a successful assessment tool for coho salmon in the Fraser River, can be operated during the annual sockeye migration period when river flows peak.
- Support for the Nooksack Basin Stream Restoration Crew in Whatcom County, Washington, who will undertake a number of in-stream and stream bank improvements to restore riparian habitat and function to salmon-bearing streams throughout the watershed.
- A habitat restoration project on the Deschutes River in Oregon by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. Deschutes River fall chinook salmon are used by the U.S. Chinook Technical Committee of the PSC as an indicator stock to assess the effectiveness of abundance based harvest management.

The Northern Fund Committee approved a total of 22 projects for \$2.4 million Canadian (\$1.9 million U.S.). Proponents include 5 First Nations from northern B.C. and the Yukon; collaborative projects co-managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and a range of other habitat restoration and fisheries management projects led by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. These include:

- A two-year joint Canada/U.S. project to develop and implement an effective, cost efficient Tuya River sockeye harvest system consistent with the Transboundary Annex provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.
- A two-year study to provide in-depth information about the distribution and abundance of emigrating Tuya River sockeye salmon in the Stikine River and their spawning behaviour and level of success.
- Improved sockeye salmon stock identification techniques to better evaluate existing run reconstruction methods by providing accurate and timely estimates of stocks caught in Canadian and U.S. fisheries in the Northern Boundary area.
- A logging debris removal project on Oweekeno Lake which will restore critical lake shore habitat for spawning salmon and rearing fry, as part of a larger general recovery plan for salmon in Rivers Inlet on B.C.'s central coast.

The Committees are assisted by staff of the Pacific Salmon Commission, including a Fund Coordinator based at the Commission's office in Vancouver, BC.

For further information please contact Angus Mackay, Fund Coordinator of the Pacific Salmon Commission, at (604) 684-8081 or e-mail at [mackay@psc.org](mailto:mackay@psc.org) or visit the PSC website at: [www.psc.org](http://www.psc.org)