January 4, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members
FROM: Stacy Horton
SUBJECT: Washington Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office Update on the 2022 State of Salmon in Watersheds Report

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Eli Asher, Policy Specialist, Washington Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office

Summary: The biennially updated State of the Salmon in Watersheds report provides a statewide overview of abundance of ESA-listed Washington State salmon and steelhead populations, a summary of activities funded through the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and a high-level explanation of all-H salmon recovery in the state. The 2022 report includes updated relative population levels and summaries of recent recovery efforts.

Relevance: The protection, mitigation and recovery of fish and wildlife requires a regional commitment. The Washington Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office has been a valuable partner in this effort.

Background: The Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program shares in the region’s broader vision of natural-origin salmon and steelhead populations across the basin that are diverse, resilient, productive, and sufficiently
abundant to allow substantial opportunities for tribal and non-tribal harvest. The Washington Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GRSO) provides a productive partnership that works across social and ecological boundaries to inform and address issues that impact salmon and steelhead recovery. Since 2008, the GRSO has produced the State of Salmon in Watersheds Report to update, engage, and help set a path forward toward salmon recovery.

More Info: The State of the Salmon in Watersheds report is an interactive website hosted by the Recreation and Conservation Office: https://stateofsalmon.wa.gov. An executive summary is available for download from the website or in (limited) print version.
Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office and State of Salmon in Watersheds

Eli Asher
GSRO Policy Specialist
We are Here for the Salmon

• Form the Fabric of the Pacific Northwest
• Tribal Nations Obligations
• Critical to Regional and Local Economies
• Indicators of Ecosystem Health
Mounting Challenges

• Climate Change
• Population Growth
• Habitat Loss
• Streamflow and Temperature
• Pollution
• Predation
• Barriers
• Funding
Salmon Recovery in Washington: A Unique National Model

**Federal Endangered Species Act (NOAA)**

**Statewide Salmon Strategy (Gov Office)**
- 1999 Governor Locke Developed
- 2021 Governor Inslee Update and Modernized

**State Salmon Recovery Act (Legislative) (RCW 77.85)**
Role of GSRO

• Policy Support and Coordination
• Coordinate Implementation of Statewide Salmon Strategy
• Biennial State of Salmon Report
• Federal and Congressional Affairs
• Agencies and Recovery Organizations
• Work with Tribes Across Washington
• Funding
• Operations
Tribes and Salmon Recovery

• Sovereign Tribes in Washington

• Treaty Tribes
  • Western WA Treaty Tribes
  • Eastern WA Treaty Tribes

• Tribal Organizations
  • Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
  • Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
  • Upper Columbia United Tribes
Broader Salmon Recovery Network

Salmon Connect Us

The Salmon Recovery Network is a coordinated and collaborative statewide network that empowers local communities to lead salmon recovery in their communities.

1. **Regional Salmon Recovery Organizations** led by county and tribal leaders, and advised by scientists, citizens, state, federal, and tribal agency staff, develop and guide implementation of plans to recover and sustain salmon and the habitats upon which they depend.

2. **Lead Entities** work at the local watershed scale with technical and citizen committees to prioritize funding to high priority projects.

3. **Regional Salmon Recovery Organizations** that are also Lead Entities.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board distributes funds appropriated by Congress and matched by the State of Washington to project implementers across the state.

- **Impelmenter office location**

- **Washington’s Recreation and Conservation Office** and the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office ensure fiscal responsibility and statewide coordination.

- **4,793 JOBS** New or sustained jobs, salmon recovery funding supported annually.
- **$713M** Total economic activity from salmon recovery.
- **16,374 JOBS** Estimated jobs recreational and commercial fisheries support annually.
- **$540M** Personal income generated from recreational and commercial fisheries.
- **80%** of grant funding is spent in the county where the project is located. For every $1 million spent on restoration, $0.33 new or sustained jobs and $2.2 – $2.5 million in total economic activity is generated. (RCC, 2021)

Washington’s natural beauty and healthy ecosystems draw visitors and businesses, increasing economic prosperity across the state.
Governor’s Salmon Strategy Update
Securing a Future for People and Salmon in Washington

- Protect and restore vital salmon habitat
- Invest in clean water infrastructure for salmon and people
- Correct fish passage barriers and restore access to historical habitat
- Build climate resiliency
- Align harvest, hatcheries and hydropower with salmon recovery
- Address predation and food web issues for salmon
- Enhance coordination across agencies and programs
- Strengthen science, monitoring, and accountability
The Opportunity is Now

- Federal Funding
- State Funding and Focus on Salmon
- Strong and Resilient Partnerships
- Time is Running out
What is the State of Salmon Report?

• Statutorily required by the Salmon Recovery Act
• Reporting on fish, watershed health, recovery progress
• Printed executive summary
• Website: stateofsalmon.wa.gov
• Data hub with current information
Executive Summary

why save salmon?

salmon status

climate change

funding

habitat

water (quality, quantity)

fish passage

harvest

hydropower

hatcheries

food web/predation

highlighted projects

in memoriam
Abundance
2022 State of Salmon in Watersheds
Adult Abundance
12-21-2022

IN CRISIS
- Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook
- Puget Sound Chinook
- Snake River Basin Steelhead
- Lower Columbia River Chinook

NOT KEEPING PACE
- Upper Columbia River Steelhead
- Upper Columbia River Spring Chinook
- Middle Columbia River Steelhead
- Puget Sound Steelhead*

MAKING PROGRESS
- Lower Columbia River Coho
- Lower Columbia River Steelhead

APPROACHING GOAL
- Hood Canal Summer Run Chum
- Snake River Fall Run Chinook

* Lacks Complete Data
Climate Change
Freezing levels rising
Snowfall decreasing
Peak flow days increasing
Water temperature increasing
Funding

RCO-Managed Salmon Recovery Funding
1999-2022

MILLIONS

- Restoration
- Planning/Assessment
- Acquisition
- Monitoring
- Hatchery
- Other
- Capacity
Web Resources

Recovery Around the State

Salmon populations in Washington State are being restored through regionally specific, scientifically rigorous, and locally produced recovery strategies. See what’s happening in your region.

- Hood Canal
- Lower Columbia River
- Middle Columbia River
- Northeast Washington
- Puget Sound
- Snake River
- Upper Columbia River
- Washington Coast
Web Resources

Individual Populations

Coweeman Coho

Number of Fish

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400


- - - Recovery Coho  - Wild  - Hatchery + Wild
Web Resources

Salmon Recovery Stories

- Climate Change and Salmon
- Fish Passage: A Sense of Urgency
- Salmon Recovery Done Locally
- Working Forests Protect Salmon Habitat
- How Invasive Species Threaten Salmon
- What is Salmon Recovery?
"If your life's work can be accomplished in your lifetime, you're not thinking big enough."

-Wes Jackson