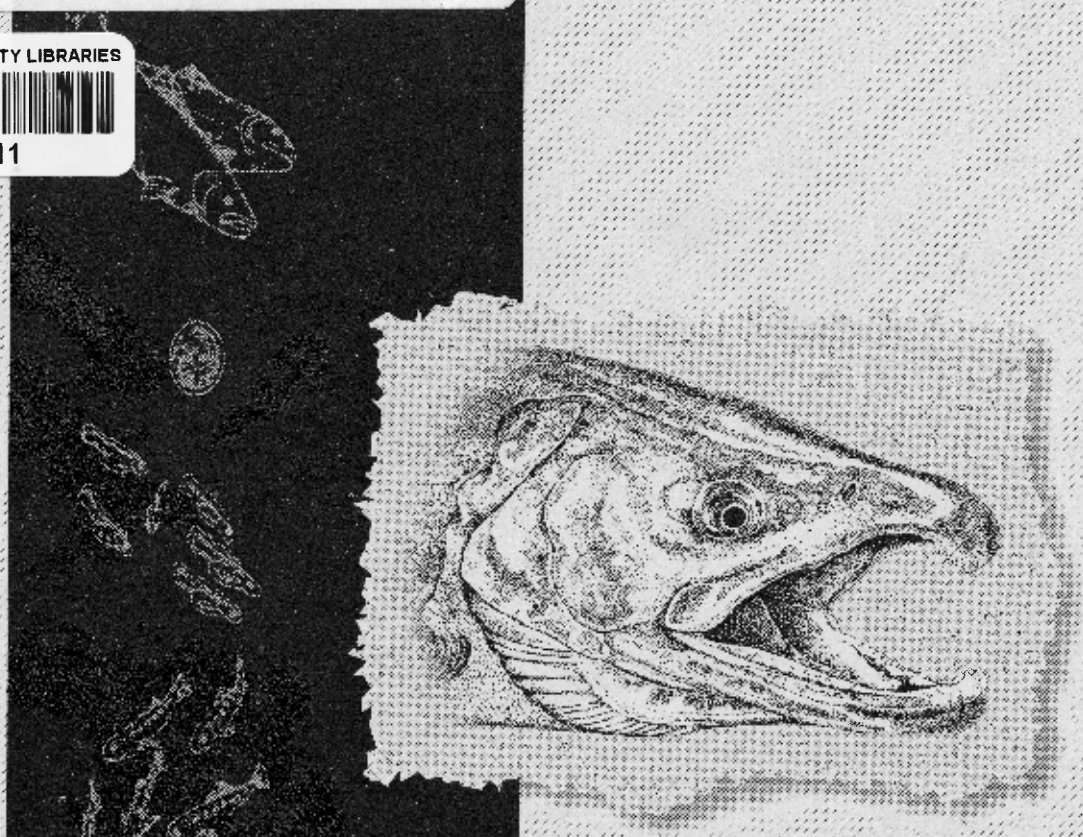
State of Oregon



Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative

Executive Summary & Overview

The Oregon Plan

Restoring an Oregon legacy through cooperative efforts

The Oregon Plan

An Overview

Oregon's conservation plan is designed to restore salmon to a level at which they can once again be a part of people's lives. The emphasis is on coho salmon in coastal river basins. However, it is a model that will expand to include all salmon and trout throughout the state. While the Plan focuses on the needs of salmon, it will conserve and restore crucial elements of natural systems that support fish, wildlife and people. No other state has ever attempted such a comprehensive program.

The Plan consists of four essential elements:

Coordinated agency programs: Many state and federal agencies administer laws, policies, and management programs that have an impact on salmon. These agencies are responsible for fishery harvest management, production of hatchery fish, water quality, water quantity, and a wide variety of habitat protection, alteration, and restoration activities. Previously, agencies conducted business independently. Salmon, whose life cycle crosses the jurisdictional boundaries of all of these agencies, suffered. Salmon suffered because they were affected by the actions of all the agencies, but no single agency was responsible for comprehensive, life-cycle management. Under this plan, all government agencies that impact salmon are accountable for coordinated programs in a manner that is consistent with conservation and restoration efforts.

Community-based action: Government, alone, cannot conserve and restore salmon across the landscape. The Plan recognizes that actions to conserve and restore salmon must be worked out by communities and landowners, with local knowledge of problems and ownership in solutions. Watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other grassroots efforts are vehicles for getting the work done. Government programs will provide regulatory and technical support to these efforts, but the bulk of the work to conserve and restore watersheds will be done by local people. Education is a fundamental part of community-based action. People must understand the needs of salmon in order to make informed decisions about how to make changes to their way of life that will accommodate the needs of the fish.

Monitoring: The monitoring program combines an annual appraisal of work accomplished and results achieved. Workplans will be used to determine whether agencies meet their goals as promised. Biological and physical sampling will be conducted to determine whether salmon habitats and populations respond as expected to conservation and restoration efforts.

Appropriate corrective measures: The Plan includes an explicit process for learning from experience, discussing alternative approaches, and making changes to current programs. The Plan emphasizes improving compliance with existing environmental laws rather than arbitrarily establishing new protective laws. Compliance will be achieved through a combination of education and prioritized enforcement of laws that are expected to yield the greatest benefits for salmon.

In summary, the Oregon Plan involves the following: (1) coordination of effort by all parties, (2) development of action plans with relevance and ownership at the local level, (3) monitoring progress, and (4) making appropriate corrective changes in the future.

Revision of the Oregon Plan

This conservation plan is a synthesis of the first draft of the Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative Plan, which was released for public and scientific peer review in August 1996, and a legislative review draft, prepared in February 1997. Public input was gathered to improve the Plan through a series of eight community briefings held throughout western Oregon. In November 1996, a group of scientists reviewed the Plan and suggested improvements. Over the last six months, the many agency staff working on the Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative have been meeting with staff of the National Marine Fisheries Service and other key partners to improve and strengthen the plan. In February 1997, a revised and updated draft was presented at Legislative hearings. This provided an opportunity for the Legislature to address concerns and make needed changes to the Plan. This final draft is the result of those efforts.

The final draft of the Oregon Plan was submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service in March 1997. This plan will be useful in NMFS's listing decision for coastal coho salmon under the federal Endangered Species Act. The decision is expected by April 25, 1997.

Oregon's Plan is an adaptive strategy that will change and improve over time based on constructive suggestions from the public, key partners, scientific reviewers, and the Legislature. Over the long term, the Plan will continue to change as we implement agency measures, build local support, obtain voluntary commitments, and monitor the ongoing success of those efforts.

The Oregon Approach

In contrast to many endangered species recovery plans that rely primarily on regulatory approaches, this plan represents a new way of restoring natural systems... the "Oregon Approach." This approach meshes scientifically sound actions with local watershed-based public support. It relies on teamwork among the various levels of government and is dependent on monitoring and accountability for results. Strong enforcement of existing laws and regulations are a foundation upon which voluntary and cooperative actions can be built. We believe that this is the only approach—one that will generate the support and commitment across all sectors, from landowners and industry to government agencies—to restore salmon and their natural systems. This plan will require an unprecedented level of cooperation and coordination among local, state, and federal agencies. It represents the commitment of all Oregonians to the fish, the watersheds, and our children.

Four Key Elements

- Investments in Local Solutions
- Private/Public Partnerships
- Science-Based Watershed Management
- Implementation of Existing Laws

Executive Summary

Restoration of Oregon's anadromous fish presents many challenges to Oregonians. Perhaps the greatest challenge is to discover how people and salmon can co-exist in the future. This challenge has no clear endpoint, no time when "success" can be declared forever. Some measure of success, however, may be reached if Oregon achieves a fundamental shift toward resource management philosophies and practices that support conservation and restoration of natural systems in a way that is more favorable to salmon. After all, a basic tenet of the Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative (OCSRI) is that all Oregon citizens share responsibility for the changes to the natural systems that have hurt salmon and, likewise, share responsibility for restoration. For the long term, the challenge is to negotiate societal decisions that address the complex, conflicting issues of human population growth and competition for natural resources. This must be done in a manner that meets the needs of both salmon and people.

Reason for this Report

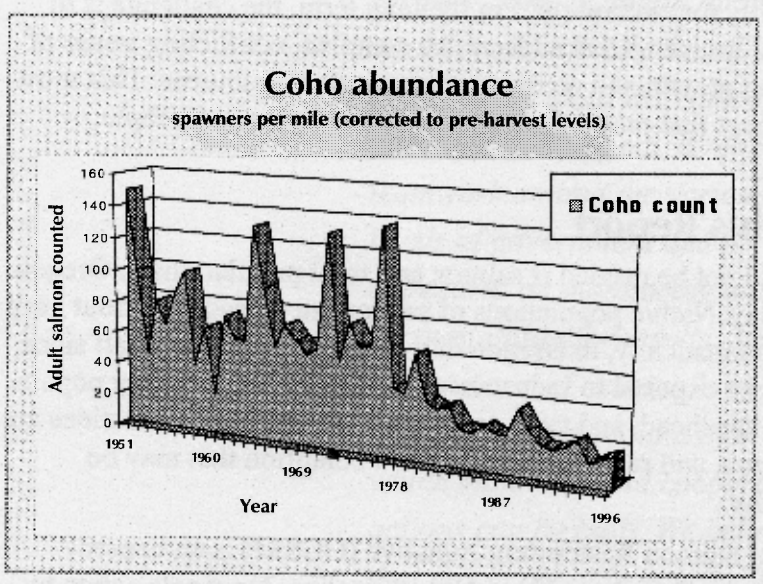
This report would not be needed if salmon and trout populations in Oregon were healthy today. Native populations of salmon, steelhead, and trout have declined, some dramatically, in Oregon during the century and a half since the region has been exposed to industrial-scale development. Many populations of salmon, steelhead, and trout are extinct today; other populations are at risk of extinction, and relatively few are in a condition that may be considered healthy.

Oregon's Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative (OCSRI) is an unprecedented effort to turn the tide on the salmon's decline. No single action by government or Oregon citizens will restore salmon and trout to a viable role in Oregon's culture and economy, but a cooperative effort, sustained over time, may succeed. This document presents the essential elements of a planning and action process that has been in progress since October 1995. The intent of this report is to describe progress to date and to list activities that are either underway or needed to restore the vitality of salmon and trout populations in Oregon coastal river basins.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is currently considering a recommendation to list two groups of coho salmon in Oregon as *threatened* under the federal Endangered Species Act. Oregon is hoping to retain state authority over management of Oregon's natural resources. The goal of the OCSRI is not merely to prevent the extinction of coho salmon in the coastal region, but to *restore* populations of salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout to levels that are considered *healthy*.

The Beginning of OCSRI

Governor John Kitzhaber announced the planning effort to conserve and restore Oregon's coastal salmon and steelhead in October 1995. One of his first steps was to establish a team approach for developing an action plan that would lead to restoring the health of coastal salmon and trout populations. Another early step was to require directors of key state agencies to meet with the Governor bi-weekly, reporting progress and resolving interagency obstacles. An outreach team began to work with key agency stakeholders, asking for their advice and ideas. A Science Team was established to work on technical issues. Agencies worked with stakeholders and NMFS staff to develop action plans designed to address management practices and environmental factors that were affecting salmon production. All of this occurred on a fast track and a draft was submitted to NMFS in August 1996.



Historical Perspective of Coho Abundance

Near the turn-of-the-century, coastal coho salmon were harvested by gill-net fleets that fished in coastal estuaries and the lower reaches of coastal rivers. Based on records of canned coho salmon from these fisheries, an average of 500,000 adult coho salmon were landed annually during the 1890s. Assuming these fisheries harvested 40 percent of the run, coastal coho salmon north of Cape Blanco numbered about 1.25 million adults annually around the turn-of-the-century. While other assumptions may be made regarding methods of estimating turn-of-the-century abundance of Oregon coastal coho, it is clear that returns in some years exceeded a million fish.

From the turn-of-the-century through the 1930s, annual abundance of coho salmon averaged about 900,000. By the 1940s and 1950s, however, annual production had declined to half that level. During recent years, annual production of wild coho in Oregon coastal basins has been dramatically less, around 50,000 to 80,000 fish under adverse ocean conditions.

Declining Populations

The Oregon Plan recognizes an historic decline in coastal coho populations. The Plan is designed to reverse this decline and return salmon, once again, to healthy levels.

Sources of Risk to the Oregon Coho ESUs

Salmon have declined to a small fraction of their historic abundance in Oregon due to a number of human activities. Society recognizes the immediate crisis: too few salmon. This crisis, however, is merely a symptom of many circumstances acting over a broad scale of space and time to reduce salmon production.

Evolutionarily Significant Units

Two of the evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) of coho salmon proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act occur wholly or partly in Oregon.

An ESU

This is a population of fish that are important because they represent a vital step in the evolution of the species.

Northern Oregon Coast ESU: This ESU includes all coastal populations from the mouth of the Columbia to Cape Blanco, including the Umpqua Basin. This ESU consists of three groupings of populations that are classified by ODFW as Gene Conservation Groups (GCGs).

Southern Oregon and Northern California ESU: This ESU includes all coastal populations in Oregon south of Cape Blanco to the California border, including the Rogue Basin. ODFW has identified only one GCG of coho salmon in the Oregon portion of this ESU. The ESU also includes coho populations in northern California, including the Klamath and Smith basins.

Activities and processes that, individually and collectively may contribute to the decline of salmon populations are often referred to as "risk agents." These are discussed in categories related to their underlying cause:

Harvest risk agents include all management activities pertinent to control of fishing-related mortality, including: ocean fisheries, in-river fisheries, direct harvest effects, indirect fishery effects, and effects on adults and juveniles.

Hatchery risk agents include all management activities pertinent to the use of artificial propagation, including decisions related to: broodstocks used, numbers stocked, locations where fish will be stocked, expansions or reductions in stocking programs, and criteria for smolt sizes.

Habitat management risk agents include all management activities that influence the nature of freshwater landscapes in a way that will affect fish, including efforts to: conserve and improve the productive capacities of freshwater environments for salmonids, provide passage at culverts and dams, and screen withdrawals and diversions.

Other risk agents include the relative productivity of the ocean environment, and predation by marine mammals and birds.

Obstacles to Success of the Plan

Funding

Adequate funding is needed to support agency efforts and for projects that restore Oregon's salmon and trout populations. There are many statewide issues competing for those resources. Restoration efforts must make the most effective use of public and private funds that are available.

Institutional Barriers

Many state, federal and local governments involved in natural resource management have a history of not communicating or fully cooperating with each other on salmon conservation. Time, public support, and continued leadership is needed to eliminate these institutional barriers.

Monitoring Program

A comprehensive, multi-disciplinary monitoring program is crucial to Oregon's ability to conserve and restore salmon and trout populations. No such program has been established or funded in the past. Clear leadership and secure funding is needed for an effective monitoring program.

Public Expectations for a Quick-Fix

The complexity of the "salmon crisis" does not lead to easy or quick solutions even though the public may expect instant results. Outreach and education efforts are needed to create a reasonable level of optimism that success is possible in the long term.

An Adverse Ocean Environment

The ocean off the Oregon coast is extremely variable in its suitability for coho salmon. No one can predict the cycles of good vs. poor ocean conditions. Presently, improvements can only be made to freshwater and estuarine habitats that support salmon so populations can persist until more favorable ocean conditions return.

Unintended Consequences of Listing

A listing of coho in Oregon under the federal Endangered Species Act could result in unintended consequences such as withdrawal of key voluntary measures and a loss of public participation in restoration and enhancement efforts.

The Ongoing Evolution of Oregon's Plan

The strength of this conservation plan lies in an explicit recognition that it will need to adapt, evolve, and improve, based on information obtained from monitoring, independent scientific review, and the people who are putting the Plan to work on the land and in the streams. The written document therefore celebrates a beginning — a turning point in the way Oregonians manage the natural systems that support people and salmon.

Historical Review of Restoration

Efforts to restore salmon have been attempted for over 125 years. Most of these have failed due to inadequate science, inaccurate projections, lack of integrated decision-making, lack of monitoring and accountability, and/or lack of sustained political priority. History has offered us an opportunity to demonstrate that the OCSRI approach can overcome the challenges of the past. The Oregon Plan includes a discussion of past attempts at restoration and how the OSCRI differs from, yet builds upon, those efforts.

Conceptual Foundation

While past restoration efforts have relied on hoping for success through technical solutions, the OCSRI is based on three basic principles:

1. Restoration of salmon must address natural and cultural systems.
2. Salmon require complex and interconnected habitats which are created, altered and maintained by natural physical processes.
3. Life history diversity, genetic diversity, and metapopulation organization (patterns of populations) are ways salmon adapt to their complex and interconnected habitats.

These principles are similar to those underlying the restoration efforts for salmon on the Columbia River basin.

Independent Science Team

An independent team of five scientists will be established to help the OCSRI partners base restoration efforts on the most sound science available. The team will provide an independent audit each year on the strengths and weaknesses of the OCSRI. They will focus on the adaptive process of compiling new information and results into a review of goals, objectives, strategies, and approaches. This team will help hold the plan accountable to its goals.

Point of Reference

Based on the current habitat-based model, production of coho at full seeding might range from a little under 200,000 adults under adverse ocean conditions to a little over 400,000 adults under favorable ocean conditions.

New Information: *Trends and Expectations*

A life-cycle model of coho populations has been improved based on actual habitat capacity. This model suggests that total production, proportion of habitat utilized, and spawner needs vary dramatically based on cycles of ocean survival. Spawning goals for adjusting harvest rates have been updated based on this improved model. The model has also been used to estimate the probability of survival based on other scenarios.

Habitat improvement is important to increase production of coho for any level of ocean survival and to help ensure persistence if ocean conditions drop below current levels. Improved habitat and greater numbers of coho will also help ensure their long-term viability if our predictions for survival in underseeded streams prove too optimistic.

Legislative Oversight

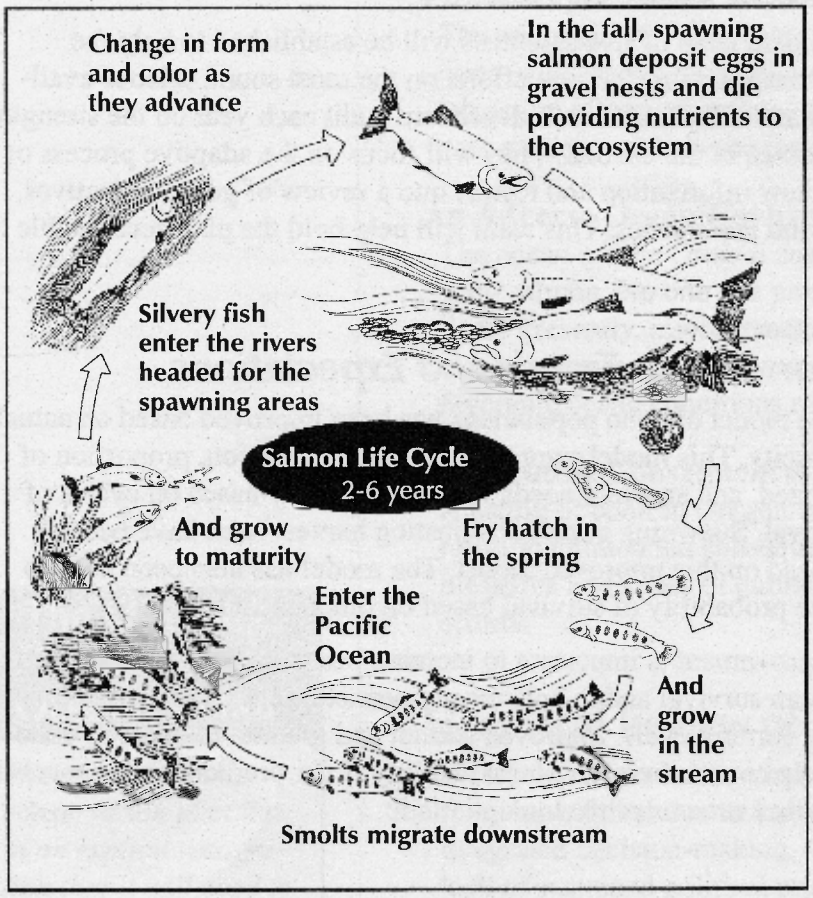
The Legislative Oversight Committee will provide coordinated political support and recommend changes to statutes where needed. This committee will also ensure that budget and staffing proposals receive appropriate review and support.

Monitoring

There is almost unanimous response from NMFS, the public, and peer reviewers on the critical role of monitoring to assure accountability, adaptive learning, and credibility to the Plan. Over 60 different groups, including tribes, agency staff, stakeholders, and watershed councils, have been working to develop the next iteration of the monitoring program.

The current program describes 15 distinct tasks from monitoring habitat quality/quantity, to fish abundance and even estimating ocean productivity levels. The monitoring program includes provisions for more intensive monitoring in some core production and index areas. Other parts of the monitoring program will cover a broader geographic scope. Monitoring results will be summarized by the team, including state/federal agency staff and interested groups, annually for Oregon's report to the people and the federal government on the progress of restoration efforts.

Voluntary public participation in the monitoring program is a key element to the success of these efforts. The training for the monitoring program will provide great educational benefits. Participants such as landowners, educators, children, and conservation groups can take ownership in restoration efforts through participation in the monitoring program.



Salmon Life Cycle

The salmon life cycle illustrates how these fish depend on healthy habitat for their survival. Oregon salmon range from the headwaters of coastal streams all the way to the Pacific Ocean — crossing man-made boundaries and natural obstacles. The Oregon Plan aims to provide ways for Oregonians to restore and protect the valuable habitat necessary to sustain healthy salmon runs.

Outreach and Education

OCSRI outreach efforts are focused on educating the public about natural resource issues. This includes creating ownership of the Plan through stewardship activities and facilitating new partnerships at the local level. The value of education to protection and restoration efforts cannot be measured by data collection and monitoring—but is measured by the number of citizens who come forward to volunteer their time to help implement the plan and build stewardship for the future. The outreach and education section of the plan has moved from informing the public, to facilitating the development of education tools for private and public citizens to use to help implement the plan.

The Outreach Team has developed a compendium of salmon/watershed education programs, services, and activities resulting from a survey of educators (individuals, groups, agencies and organizations) conducted in January 1997. The survey also identified needs, barriers, successes, and failures to improve outreach efforts and develop strategies for education activities. This survey, together with an OSU survey of coastal residents and leaders, provides valuable insight about the willingness of Oregonians to be involved in salmon restoration and how to improve this involvement.

Oregon State University Extension Service hosted a Salmon and Watershed Education Workshop in February 1997. The OCSRI Outreach Team and seven state agencies provided sponsorship and support. Approximately 200 leaders came together to review the compendium and survey results. Participants identified ways to effectively deliver existing education programs to key audiences. The workshop also focused on new education opportunities including: establishing a clearinghouse for educational materials, finding ways to broadly distribute existing model curriculum, developing "how-to" training materials, creating incentive programs for involvement, facilitating local communication networks and seeking more secure funding for education.

Watershed Councils

Oregon now has over 60 watershed councils working with local soil and water conservation districts and landowners. The Plan highlights the key role for these partners in conducting basin assessments, understanding limiting factors, and involving landowners. Watershed councils are developing action plans and monitoring programs at the local level.

In order for watershed councils to continue restoration efforts, they have many ongoing needs. These include: long-term funding for coordinators, adequate technical support, cost-share grants, and incentives for landowners. In addition, comprehensive action plans must be developed and some watershed councils need to broaden landowner and stakeholder involvement.

State Agency Measures and Workplans

Key Measures

- More trees in riparian areas
- Habitat conservation plans
- Water quality management
- Improved enforcement
- Improved fish passage
- More fish screens
- Better hatchery management
- Improved physical habitat

State agency measures represent commitments by various agencies and their stakeholders. The workplans show how agencies are already implementing measures with their current staff and budgets. Specific assignments, due dates, and work products are listed.

State agency measures are organized by categories of "Factors for Decline." This allows the reader to understand how the measures relate to specific objectives designed to address one of the major factors that have caused the decline of salmon. The factors for decline include: loss/degradation of riparian areas, channel morphology, substrate changes in streams, loss of instream roughness (structure), fish passage impediments, loss of estuarine rearing habitat, loss of wetlands, water quality degradation/sedimentation, changes in flow, elimination of habitat, and direct take of salmonids such as fishing mortality or predation.

The agencies and their stakeholders have listed over 200 measures and actions to address these factors and achieve the objectives to restore salmon and watersheds. Where possible, specific numerical objectives and timelines for achievement are listed. In some cases, numerical objectives must be developed at the local level to be most effective. Agencies will work with stakeholders, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and NMFS staff to develop the appropriate objectives and timelines.

Some of the most significant measures include:

- Increased numbers of conifers left along streams on state and private land.
- A habitat conservation plan was developed for the Elliott State Forest and is being developed for the Tillamook/Clatsop State Forest.
- Commitment to evaluate road sedimentation risks and to correct problems on state and private forest roads that may threaten salmon streams.
- SB 1010 will be used by the Oregon Department of Agriculture to work with landowners to develop water quality management plans which will be used to address water quality concerns in agricultural areas.

Cooperation

The measures, workplans, and proposed budget packages have been developed cooperatively across agency boundaries. This was necessary to prevent duplication and promote interagency partnering.

- Various tools to maintain and enhance streamflows (such as better enforcement of illegal water diversions, as well as water conservation programs, instream water rights, off-stream storage, and water right transfers and leases) will be used to meet the flow needs of fish, while still respecting senior water rights.
- Fill and removal laws will be enforced more strongly in salmon production areas, particularly in core production areas.
- Fish passage will be restored where man-made barriers are blocking access to historic range. Culverts and push-up dams are priority focus areas.
- Fish screens must be installed on irrigation diversions that are impacting coastal salmon. This work is in progress.
- Spawning escapement needs will require very restrictive management of fisheries to rebuild salmon populations. Hatchery fish will be marked to provide for selective fisheries and to identify strays on spawning grounds. Strict limits on strays are in place.
- Hatchery production will be reduced and new broodstocks will be developed to ensure compatibility with natural stocks.
- The Department of Environmental Quality will intensify its work with the Departments of Agriculture and Forestry to ensure water quality standards are met. Water quality standards will continually be updated through the triennial review process. Monitoring programs will be strengthened.
- Private forest and agricultural landowners will continue to intensify efforts to restore habitat structure and off-channel habitat through watershed councils, SWCDs, and industry-sponsored initiatives.

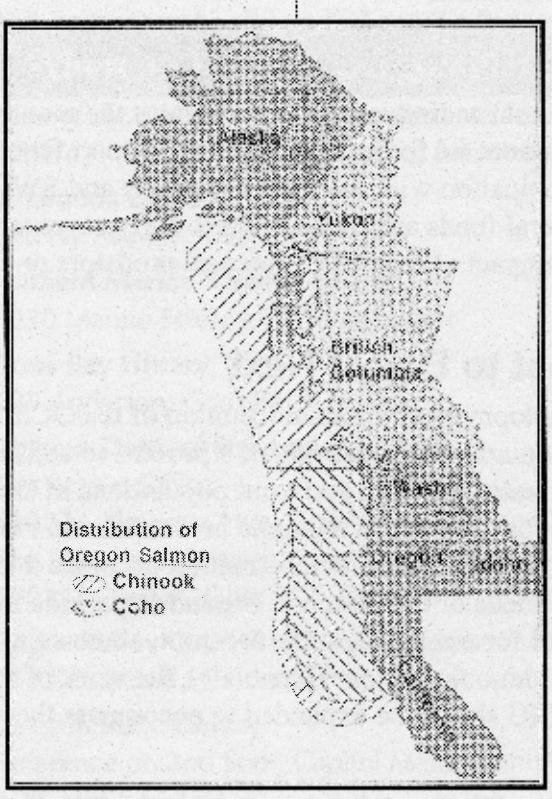
Many of the objectives have been developed using the ODFW habitat survey database. A reasonable baseline already exists to track habitat and water quality status for coastal basins. Maintaining and expanding this effort is a key part of the monitoring program and will provide accountability and feedback on the results of these measures.

Federal Measures and Workplans

Federal agencies have included measures and workplans in this draft to support the OCSRI. The aquatic conservation strategy associated with the Northwest Forest Plan should dramatically improve fish habitat, watershed stability, and water quality over time. This is one of the major anchors of the OCSRI restoration strategy. Additionally, federal agencies will provide support for monitoring, watershed council activities, and technical efforts such as watershed assessment and education. Federal agencies will work with Oregon to determine the effect of federally protected predators on salmon and measures that might address identified problems.

Local Government Measures: *Cities, Counties, and Ports*

The Association of Oregon Counties, League of Oregon Cities, Oregon Public Ports Association, and the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association are partners in the OCSRI. The counties and cities have summarized their measures in terms of biological benefit to fish. Currently, only a small fraction of key habitat streams are in urban development areas. As population grows and cities continue to expand, local governments can have a profound impact on the future health of streams through land-use planning and development of water supplies. Over 50 individual projects are listed in the Plan by counties and cities.



Salmon Migration

Salmon use vast areas of ocean during their rearing cycle. When salmon return to Oregon's rivers and streams, they require healthy and abundant habitat for spawning and freshwater rearing.

Enforcement

Feedback from the public, peer reviewers, and NMFS also reinforced the critical role of enforcement in the OCSRI. To build on a working foundation of current law and regulation — and expand it using voluntary and cooperative efforts — the Plan requires that agencies enforce the current regulations more effectively.

Voluntary compliance with environmental laws requires the right balance of education, enforcement action, and compliance monitoring. The Fish and Wildlife Division of the Oregon State Police (OSP) supports habitat protection and environmental law enforcement in addition to enforcing hunting and fishing laws.

Additionally, state natural resource agencies are committed to effective enforcement and education of habitat protection regulations. Each agency will be responsible for demonstrating the compliance level for key laws and regulations. For example, the Department of Forestry will statistically monitor the compliance rate for forest operations relating to the Forest Practices Act. OSP has been monitoring compliance with fish and wildlife laws for years and will be able to provide valuable assistance to agencies in designing these programs.

Funding

Many of the agencies participating in the Plan are working within existing budgets and authority to implement programs geared toward restoration goals. However, the public, peer reviewers, and NMFS understand that without substantial new funding and a long-term commitment, the OCSRI Plan has little chance of recovering the salmon and watersheds to sustainable, economically viable levels.

Appraisal of the Oregon Plan

Oregon concludes that the OSCRI Plan is sufficient to prevent extinction and to achieve recovery of coho salmon in coastal river basin, especially in the Northern ESU. This is based on eight major points:

1. **Recovery**
   Several sources of information suggest that although coastal coho populations are not currently at desired levels, they remain sufficiently resilient to recover.
2. **Factors**
   Major factors for decline are being actively addressed by existing and new programs.
3. **Priorities**
   The conservation plan includes rationale and information to facilitate prioritization of conservation and restoration efforts.
4. **Timelines**
   Explicit objectives and timelines are stated in the conservation plan.
5. **Monitoring**
   A comprehensive monitoring program is in place.
6. **Certainty**
   The Plan provides a high level of certainty that identified measures and actions will be implemented.
7. **Integration**
   The Plan is founded on an active and ongoing integration and coordination of government agencies and stakeholders.
8. **Evaluation**
   The Plan includes an explicit process of evaluating whether sufficient progress is being made, overcoming institutional barriers, and making future changes to the way the Plan is implemented.

Federal Funding

Federal agencies are already making substantial investments in salmon and watershed restoration. The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service are involved in funding and implementing the Northwest Forest Plan, which is a critical element of the OCSRI. Programs such as "Hire the Fishermen" and "Jobs in the Woods" are providing key support to watershed councils, SWCDs, and other watershed restoration programs. Possible assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service through the Farm Bill and flood restoration funds might provide assistance.

Federal funding is needed to support the monitoring programs for federal lands and to support federal participation with watershed councils and SWCDs. Federal funds are also needed to support research on the impact of federally protected predators on fish.

What to Expect Next

Development and implementation of the OCSRI Plan only marks the beginning of a process to conserve and restore salmon and trout populations in Oregon. The Plan must be a dynamic process that is modified and improved as new information becomes available. The focus of the Plan will expand to provide more detail for steelhead, cutthroat trout, chum salmon, and chinook salmon. Eventually, the work of the OCSRI should be expanded to encompass the entire state.

Many of the immediate steps required for the Plan to be successful are evident:

- Leadership and coordination that has brought the Plan to its current state of implementation will be continued.
- Active participation by the Oregon Legislature that has been developing in recent months will be strengthened and maintained.
- An independent scientific assessment team will be appointed and established.
- Watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other grassroots organizations must receive adequate support and technical assistance.

- State and federal agencies have made great strides in overcoming traditional territorial conflicts. They must continue to coordinate, communicate, and improve efficiency in shared missions.
- Funding must be secured from appropriate state and federal sources to support conservation and restoration efforts.
- Economic and social incentives need further development to support the Oregon Plan.
- Compliance with existing environmental laws will be improved.
- Public outreach and education programs will improve the public's understanding of the effect of habitat alteration on salmon.
- Proposed monitoring programs will be implemented.
- Delivery of information from the monitoring program to grassroots level will be improved.
- Hundreds of commitments by government, watershed councils, conservation organizations, industries, and private landowners will be met.
- The Oregon Plan must be constantly re-evaluated and modified as necessary to ensure that the mission is achieved.

Where to Find the Oregon Plan

Copies of the Plan and the appendices will be available for review at the following locations:

- **Tillamook Library**
  210 Ivy Avenue, Tillamook
- **Hatfield Marine Science Center**
  2030 Marine Science Drive, Newport
- **Coos Bay Library**
  525 Anderson, Coos Bay
- **Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife**
  SW Region Office
  4192 N. Umpqua Hwy, Roseburg
- **The Nature of Oregon Information Center**
  800 NE Oregon, Suite 177, Portland
- **Rogue Valley Council of Governments**
  155 South 2nd St, Central Point
- **Oregon State Library**
  Reference on 2nd floor, Capitol Mall, Salem
- **Astoria Public Library**
  450 Tenth St, Astoria
- **Siuslaw Public Library,**
  1460 9th St, Florence
- **Reedsport Branch Library**
  395 Winchester Ave, Reedsport
- **Curry Public Library**
  330 Colvin St, Gold Beach
- **Chetco Community Public Library**
  405 Alder St, Brookings
- **Jackson County Library Services**
  413 W. Main St, Medford

The plan is also available on the internet at:
www.governor.state.or.us/governor.html

Conclusion

Oregon faces significant challenges in managing the state's natural resources. These challenges include restoring native fish populations and improving water quality in our rivers and streams. How we meet these challenges will determine if Oregonians will continue to manage their future, or if control will be turned over to the federal government. The OCSRI represents a portion of the "Oregon Approach" that focuses on results through innovation and grassroots involvement for natural resource management. This summary represents the continuing evolution of the Oregon Approach to collaborative problem solving. The OCSRI demonstrates Oregon's spirit of natural resource citizenship coupled with local involvement and government partnerships to tackle natural resource issues using teamwork and cooperation.

Elements of the OCSRI Conservation Plan

Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative

Mission

"To restore our coastal salmon populations and fisheries to productive and sustainable levels that will provide substantial environmental, cultural, and economic benefits."

The *heart* of the Oregon Plan is its commitment. Commitments only have meaning if they are sincere as proven over time by faithful conduct. I hope, for our sake and for our children's sake, that society will live up to this pledge.

–Jay W. Nicholas
principal writer/
plan coordinator
March 7, 1997
