



**Fisheries
& Habitat
Conservation**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program

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America's fish and other aquatic resources are among the richest and most diverse in the world. Our aquatic resources, and the recreational, commercial and subsistence opportunities they support have helped to further the Nation's growth by providing enormous ecological, social and economic benefits. In 2001 alone, recreational fishing contributed more than \$40 billion to the national economy. However, the quality of these resources is being threatened by a variety of stresses, including invasive species and habitat loss. Many fish species are declining at alarming rates. Almost 400 aquatic species either have or need special protection in some part of their natural or historic range.

The good news is that recovery efforts have reversed declines in several important species. The Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program is proud to play a role in success stories such as the recovery of striped bass in Atlantic coastal waters, and the Apache trout in the American southwest. These examples give us hope and illustrate the value of cooperative approaches to fisheries management in the future.

Our program works with States, Tribes, other Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, foreign governments, and the private sector to foster sound science and collaborative management. Our program works across geographic, political and international borders to craft coalitions, partnerships and solutions.



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FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PRINCIPLES

- Voluntary Projects and Collaborative Action
- A Focus on Conservation Outcomes
- Stewardship through Sound Science and Local Knowledge
- Coordination Across Agencies and Landscapes
- Leveraging Resources — Doing What We Do Best to Help Partners Do Their Best

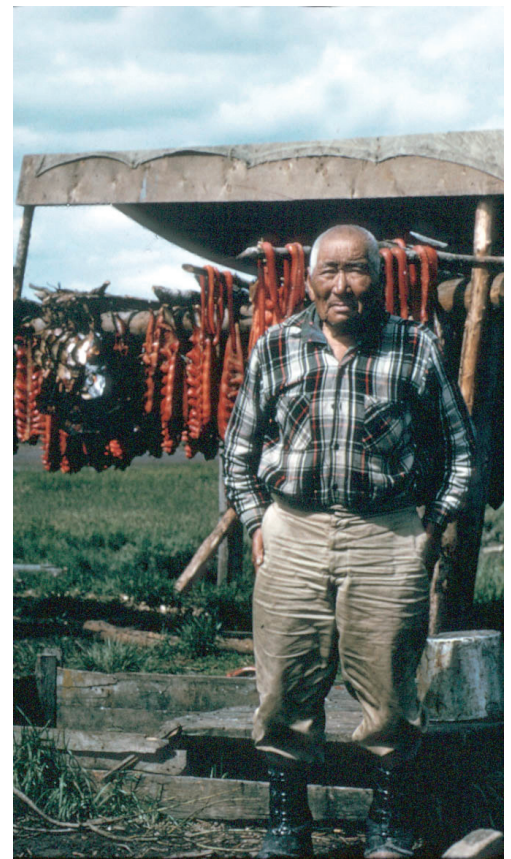
Conservationists and fisheries managers look to us to assist in achieving aquatic resource restoration goals, knowing that healthy ecosystems provide increased hunting, fishing and wildlife watching opportunities. These recreational pastimes translate into real economic benefits for communities, supported by responsible and effective management of our nation's fish and wildlife resources.

FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assess population condition of fish and other aquatic species and wildlife.
- Assess condition of habitat (aquatic and terrestrial) and conduct inventory of fish passage barriers.
- Lead and/or coordinate planning, recovery, restoration, or management of fish, other aquatic species, and wildlife.
- Restore aquatic habitats (instream and wetland) and restore fish passage through the removal of barriers.
- Prevent and control aquatic nuisance species introductions.
- Manage subsistence fisheries in Alaska.
- Manage marine mammals.



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For more information about the Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at 202/208-6394 or visit us on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/FWSMA/mamain.htm>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
800/344-WILD
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