

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2009

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard C. Shelby, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

We write to thank you for your past support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and ask your continued support by providing \$90 million for this successful program in the Committee report of the fiscal year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill. This program provides critical funding to facilitate recovery and sustainability of Pacific salmon populations, which is so important to the economy of our region.

We are especially grateful for past program funding that has resulted in impressive accomplishments in local and state salmon recovery efforts. Federal funding, together with state and local resources, has allowed local citizens and officials to initiate thousands of restoration and conservation projects within our five states. The majority of these projects, developed using a "bottom up" approach, focus on direct improvements to habitat for salmon and steelhead, resulting in more than 500,000 acres of restored habitat, and approximately 3,575 opened stream miles. This form of citizen involvement is exactly the type of commitment needed to succeed in protecting and restoring these important species of fish that are so integral to the economic and ecological well-being of Washington State, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and California.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) developed and implemented six program performance goals and numerous performance measures that are monitored on an annual basis to assure federal and state funds are being used responsibly and effectively. As noted in the 2008 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Report to Congress on the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, "Through the PCSRF and efforts and contributions of state and tribal partners, progress is being made in the overall recovery of Pacific salmon and steelhead. Continued commitment, collaboration and resources are required to achieve the overarching goal of full recovery and sustainability."

We look forward to working with you to achieve restoration and sustainability of the fisheries resources that are so important to our economies, our states, and to the nation.

Sincerely,

  


Ron Wyden

Jan E. Riech

Barbara Boxer

Paul Beatty

Jeffrey A. Merkley