



NOAA

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Contact: Monica Allen
301-713-2370

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 5, 2010

NOAA's Fisheries Service Announces \$1 Million for Five Tribes to Help Recover Threatened and Endangered Species

NOAA's Fisheries Service today announced nearly \$1 million in grants to assist 5 tribal governments to recover Atlantic salmon, Pacific smelt, Steller sea lions, humpback whales, and Southern Resident killer whales listed under the Endangered Species Act and to monitor the delisted eastern Pacific Gray whale.

"NOAA's Fisheries Service recognizes the essential role that tribal governments play as stewards of these endangered marine mammal and fish species," said Eric Schwaab, assistant administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service. "This new tribal grant program provides a valuable mechanism to fund initiatives led by the tribes that protect and recover species in need."

The principal objective of the Species Recovery Grants to Tribes Program is to support recovery efforts that directly benefit threatened or endangered species, de-listed species, or species being considered for listing. Recovery efforts supported by the program may involve management, research, monitoring, and outreach activities or any combination of these recovery activities. Projects focusing on Pacific salmon species are not part of this program; conservation efforts for those species may be funded through NOAA's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

"I'm pleased that so many of our tribal nation partners are taking strong leadership roles in scientific research and natural resource management in cooperation with NOAA," said Don Chapman, the senior advisor on Native American Affairs for the Secretary of Commerce. "The grant awards to these 5 tribes are a testament to the dedication of Indian Country to cultural and natural resource preservation."

The 5 proposals selected during the fiscal year 2010 grant cycle and corresponding 2010 federal funding are:

- 1) Makah Tribal Council (\$190,653): To conduct research and outreach to identify and reduce threats to Steller sea lions, Humpback whales, and Southern Resident killer whales and assess stock structure of eastern Pacific Gray whales from Alaska to California in collaboration with NOAA researchers.
- 2) Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government (\$158,085): To investigate the Steller sea lion diet to determine how much of that diet includes commercially used fish species and

assess the levels of contaminants that may be detrimental to the animals and the humans that rely on them for subsistence.

3) Cowlitz Indian Tribe (\$304,272): To determine habitat preferences and impacts of sediment runoff from the land on habitat for Pacific smelt, also called eulachon, in Lower Columbia River Tributaries.

4) Yurok Tribe (\$193,975): To identify whether Pacific smelt are still present in their historic range in the Klamath River, Mad River, and Redwood Creek and estimate abundance if they are found.

5) Penobscot Indian Nation (\$100,000): To hire a restoration biologist to identify and implement measures to improve Atlantic salmon migration and represent tribal interests regarding Atlantic salmon management.

The FY11 federal funding announcement will publish in December. For more information about the program please visit: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/conservation/tribes.htm>

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Visit us at <http://www.noaa.gov> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/usnoaagov>.