

**UNITED STATES SECTION  
of the  
PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION**

U.S. Section Coordinator  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.  
Building I, F/NWR2  
Seattle, WA 98115  
Phone: 206-526-4140  
Fax: 206-526-6534

**TESTIMONY OF DAVID BEDFORD, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER,  
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
U.S. COMMISSIONER, PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION  
U.S. SECTION OF THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION**

**BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED  
AGENCIES, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS ON THE FY 2014 BUDGET FOR THE  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Mr. Chairman, my name is David Bedford, and I serve as a Commissioner on the United States Section of Pacific Salmon Commission (Commission). The Commission was established in 1985 to oversee implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (Treaty) between the United States and Canada. In May of 2008, the Commission concluded bilateral negotiations that developed revised salmon fishing regimes for the period 2009 – 2018. The provisions of the new fisheries agreements were approved by the federal governments of the United States and Canada and are being implemented for the 2009-2018 period. Funding in the Department of Commerce budget for the programs intended to fulfill national commitments created by the Treaty was \$10,859,253 in the 2012 budget. Funding for the Treaty is located in three lines in the National Marine Fisheries Service budget for Salmon Management Activities: the Pacific Salmon Treaty line, the U.S. Chinook Agreement line, the 2008 Agreement line and in the International Fisheries Commissions line in Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions.

The implementation of the Treaty is funded through the Departments of Commerce, Interior and State. The Department of Commerce principally funds programs conducted by the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The costs of the programs conducted by the states to fulfill national commitments created by the treaty are substantially greater than the funding provided in the NMFS budget. Consequently the states supplement the federal Treaty appropriations from other sources including state general funds, Dingell Johnson grants, and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery. To maintain programs necessary to meet treaty commitments funding for 2014 at the 2012 level of \$10,859,253 may be sufficient provided that all of the other sources of funds remain available.

The Pacific Salmon Treaty line item of the National Marine Fisheries Service budget funded at \$5,622,690 provides base support for the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho and the National Marine Fisheries Service to conduct the salmon stock assessment and fishery management programs required to implement the Treaty's conservation and allocation provisions for coho, sockeye, Chinook, chum, and pink salmon fisheries. Effective, science-based implementation of negotiated

salmon fishing arrangements and abundance-based management approaches for Chinook, southern coho, Northern Boundary and Transboundary River salmon fisheries includes efforts such as increased annual tagging and tag recovery operations, harvest monitoring, genetic stock identification and other emerging stock identification techniques.

The Chinook Salmon Agreement line item in Salmon Management Activities funded at \$1,836,563 supports research and stock assessment necessary to acquire and analyze the technical information needed to fully implement the abundance-based Chinook salmon management program provided for by the Treaty. The states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and the twenty-four treaty tribes conduct projects selected in a rigorous competitive process.

The International Fisheries Commissions line, under Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions in the NMFS budget is funded at \$400,000 and provides the U.S. contribution to bilateral cooperative salmon enhancement on the transboundary river systems which rise in Canada and flow to the sea through Southeast Alaska. This project was established in 1988 to meet U.S. obligations specified in the Treaty and has been funded annually at \$400,000.

The 2008 Agreement line supports programs necessary to reach the agreement on revised fishery provisions between the U.S. and Canada in 2008. The level of funding needed for 2008 Agreement programs is \$3,000,000. The U.S. Commissioners view continued funding in the FY 2014 federal budget as necessary to address Chinook salmon conservation needs and to meet existing treaty commitments.

The core Treaty implementation projects included in the Pacific Salmon Treaty line, and the U.S. Chinook Agreement line under Salmon Management Activities as well as the International Fisheries Commission line under Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions consist of a wide range of stock assessment, fishery monitoring, and technical support activities for all five species of Pacific salmon in the fisheries and rivers between Cape Suckling in Alaska to Cape Falcon in Oregon. The states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the 24 treaty tribes of Washington and Oregon conduct a wide range of programs for salmon stock abundance assessment, escapement enumeration, stock distribution, and fishery catch and effort information. The information is used to establish fishing seasons, harvest levels, and accountability to the provisions of Treaty fishing regimes.

The base annual Treaty implementation funding of approximately \$5.6 million has remained essentially flat since the early 1990's while the growing complexity of conservation-based, and Endangered Species Act compliant fishing regimes has required much more intensive stock assessment, fishery compliance monitoring, and technical support activities. In order to continue to fulfill the federal commitments created by Treaty, the states have had to augment federal funding with other federal and state resources. For example, additional funding has included federal Anadromous Fish Grants, federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF), federal Dingell-Johnson dollars, and state general funds. However, alternative sources of funding have seen reductions or in some cases been eliminated. The Anadromous Fish Grants were eliminated in the federal FY 2010 budget. Uses of PCSRF monies were constrained in FY 2010 by new appropriations language and further constrained in 2012 by the NMFS. State dollars and Dingell-Johnson grants have been significantly reduced during the current economic downturn.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service measures the economic impacts of commercial and sport fisheries for the states involved in the Treaty at approximately \$2-3 billion per year. Effective implementation of the Treaty is necessary to continue the federal Treaty conservation-based fishing regimes that contribute to the sustainability of salmon stocks, the significant number of jobs supported by the fisheries and the large economic return to the states and communities,. To accomplish this funding is needed at the 2012 level of \$10,859,253.

This concludes the Statement of the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission submitted for consideration by your committee. We wish to thank the committee for the support given us in the past. I will be pleased to answer any questions the Committee Members may have.

## **SUMMARY OF PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE U.S.-CANADA PACIFIC SALMON TREATY**

### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,** **NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE:**

#### **Pacific Salmon Treaty Line Item**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <u>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)</u> |           |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)            | 1,030,224 |
| Alaska Department of Fish and Game                            | 2,906,814 |
| Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife                    | 881,428   |
| Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife                        | 540,589   |
| Idaho Department of Fish and Game                             | 263,635   |

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|--|--------------|------------------|
| <b>Pacific Salmon Treaty line item</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>5,622,690</b> |
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| <b>International Fisheries Commissions line item (TBR)</b><br>(Transboundary Rivers Agreement) |  | <b>400,000</b> |
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|---|--|------------------|
| <b>U.S. Chinook Agreement line item (LOA)</b> |  | <b>1,836,563</b> |
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#### **2008 Agreement line item**

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|---|------------------|
| Coded Wire Tagging (CWT) Improvement Program      | 1,500,000        |
| <u>Puget Sound Critical Chinook Stock Program</u> | <u>1,500,000</u> |

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|--------------|------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>3,000,000</b> |
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| <b>Total Dept. of Commerce – NOAA (including TBR)</b> | <b>10,859,253</b> |
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