

ANALYSIS

Department of Fish and Wildlife Pacific Salmon Treaty

Analyst: April McDonald

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, West Coast Region, in the amount of \$847,100, for ten studies evaluating Oregon coastal and lower Columbia River Chinook salmon populations.

Analysis: This grant opportunity is provided through a U.S. Congressional appropriation to the Pacific Salmon Commission and administered through NOAA Fisheries as part of the Bilateral U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) seeks approval to apply for this opportunity in order to fund ten studies designed to assist with monitoring and evaluating Oregon's coastal and lower Columbia River Chinook salmon populations. Studies include monitoring marine and freshwater fisheries for catch enumeration and individual stock contribution, spawner abundance and age composition, changes in fecundity, and the development of more efficient statistical means to evaluate Chinook salmon populations in coastal streams in the absence of ground surveys.

There is no state match requirement for this federal opportunity, and the Department would not need additional staff to deliver the grant. The deadline for application is April 3, 2023, and award notifications are anticipated by September 30, 2023. If ODFW is awarded, they will return to the legislature to request federal funds expenditure limitation.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Filimoehala

Request: Authorization to apply for a grant of \$847,100 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for West Coast Region Pacific Salmon Treaty projects.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is requesting authorization to apply to a grant totaling \$847,100 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Pacific Salmon Treaty. If awarded, the department would use grant funds to perform fish population studies at eight fish hatcheries and would purchase and maintain equipment at one hatchery. Projects funded by the grant would include: North Oregon Coast Escapement Indicator Estimates, North Oregon Coast Escapement Indicator Harvest Estimates, North Oregon Coast Escapement Indicator Spawning and Harvest Estimates, Oregon Portion of Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Sampling for Coded Wire Tags in the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers, Estimating Spawning Escapement in the South Umpqua River Basin, Validation of a Novel Methodology Using an e-Creel Expansion Value to Estimate Harvest for all Oregon North-migrating Chinook Salmon Populations, Fall-run Chinook Salmon Scale Age Composition Analysis for Oregon Coastal Stocks, Chinook Salmon Fecundity Estimation at Salmon River Hatchery, Umpqua River Escapement Indicator Harvest Estimate, and Purchase and Maintenance of electronic Coded Wire Tag detectors to be used in Coastal Exploitation Rate Indicator Surveys in Elk and Salmon Rivers.

The grant application is due on April 3, 2023, and award notification is expected by September 30, 2023. There is no match requirement associated with this grant. If awarded the department would return to the committee to request an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation and would have until June 30, 2024 to complete the projects.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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March 14, 2023

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301



Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) requests approval to submit a federal grant application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-Fisheries, West Coast Region in the amount of \$847,100 under the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Background

This grant opportunity is provided through a United States Congressional appropriation to the Pacific Salmon Commission, U.S. Section, via NOAA-Fisheries, West Coast Region, as part of the Bilateral U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty, 2019-2028 Agreement. This grant opportunity does not require any non-federal match funding, and ODFW does not need additional position authority.

The grant proposal requests \$847,100 in federal funds to conduct the following studies:

- North Oregon Coast Escapement Indicator Estimates: Nehalem, Nestucca, and Siletz Rivers (\$110,748)
- North Oregon Coast Escapement Indicator Harvest Estimates: Nehalem and Siletz Rivers (\$144,169)
- North Oregon Coast Escapement Indicator Spawning and Harvest Estimates: Siuslaw River (\$117,400)
- Oregon Portion of Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Sampling for Coded Wire Tags in the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers (\$59,357)
- Estimating Spawning Escapement in the South Umpqua River Basin (\$95,242)
- Validation of a Novel Methodology Using an e-Creel Expansion Value to Estimate Harvest for all Oregon North-migrating Chinook Salmon Populations (\$130,273)

- Fall-run Chinook Salmon Scale Age Composition Analysis for Oregon Coastal Stocks (\$ 56,459)
- Chinook Salmon Fecundity Estimation at Salmon River Hatchery (\$38,372)
- Purchase and Maintenance of electronic Coded Wire Tag detectors (Wands) to be used in Coastal Exploitation Rate Indicator Surveys in Elk and Salmon Rivers (\$20,400)
- Umpqua River Escapement Indicator Harvest Estimate (\$ 74,680)

The proposed studies are designed to assist with monitoring and evaluating Oregon coastal and lower Columbia River Chinook salmon populations in terms of stock status assessments. Studies include monitoring marine and freshwater fisheries for catch enumeration and individual stock contribution, spawner abundance and age composition, changes in fecundity, and the development of more efficient statistical means to evaluate Chinook salmon populations in Oregon coastal streams in the absence of “on the ground” fishery creel and spawning ground surveys.

Agency Action

The application deadline with NOAA is April 3, 2023. Notification of award to the agency is expected by September 30, 2023. If this grant is awarded, funds would need to be spent by June 30, 2024; ODFW anticipates making a future request for federal funds expenditure limitation.

Action Requested

ODFW requests approval to submit a federal grant application in the amount of \$847,100 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-Fisheries, West Coast Region.

Legislation Affected

None

Sincerely,



Curtis Melcher
Director