

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 24, 2017

Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to urge your continued support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). The PCSRF provides critical funding to facilitate the recovery and sustainability of Pacific salmon populations and the commercial, recreational, and tribal fishery industries which rely on them. Unfortunately, your administration's Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal completely cuts funding for this vital program. We urge your support for restoring PCSRF funding to historic levels or at the very least, we ask you to maintain funding consistent with previously enacted budgets.

The PCSRF was established by Congress in response to the decline in Pacific salmon and steelhead populations in the 1990s and to address the 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement. The fund supports the conservation and recovery of Pacific salmon across the rivers, watersheds, and coastal habitats throughout Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, and California. PCSRF funds are used for construction, planning, and programming by state, local, and tribal entities to restore and protect salmon habitat, conduct watershed assessments, develop local plans for restoration efforts and management, enhance salmon populations, educate constituencies, and conduct research to monitor, evaluate, and support salmon conservation and recovery.

Over the past 17 years, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), states, tribes, and local project managers have developed an integrated approach to track progress, measure performance, and ensure accountability of the PCSRF program. This has contributed to efficient and effective protection, restoration, and conservation of these indispensable fish which are integral to the economic, cultural, and ecosystem health of West Coast communities. As of this year, PCSRF funds have restored more than 1,060,000 acres of essential fish habitat and opened up more than 9,100 miles of streams for fish passage.

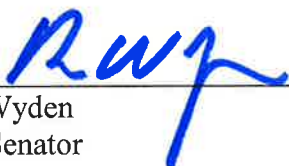
Fishing is one of our nation's oldest domestic industries, generating \$214 billion in sales, supporting 1.83 million jobs, and sustaining countless small towns and working waterfronts. Pacific salmon are iconic fish, a major economic driver in our region, and vital to the cultural heritage of tribes and our communities. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) the commercial Pacific salmon fishery is the second largest in the United States, providing thousands of Americans with fishing and processing jobs. In order to maintain these crucial economic drivers, Pacific salmon ecosystems must be restored and protected.

The PCSRF is the most critical federal program addressing major threats to Pacific salmon and ensures that these fish can continue to sustain economies, cultural values, recreation, and ecosystem health.

Robust funding for this important program is vital to achieving the overarching goals of full recovery and sustainability of our fishing economies and culture. Thanks to strong federal support, these actions are beginning to pay off. Salmon populations are recovering, and we are seeing stocks return to waters where they have been absent for years. However, if funding for this program ceases, recovery efforts will be stifled, impacting the long-term health of the species and the strength of the fisheries economy. We urge you to continue funding this program and to support these fisheries resources that are vital to our economies, our states, our culture, and to the nation.

Thank you again for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



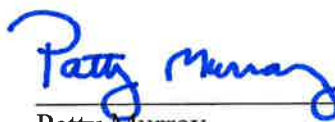
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