



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward #205
Juneau, AK 99801
(907)586-9400 phone
(907)586-4473 fax
ata@qci.net

May 18, 2009

President Barack Obama
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary, Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama and Secretary Locke:

The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) is concerned to learn that the President's FFY10 Budget request may not include monies for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). ATA has endorsed this program since its inception in 2000 and hopes you will support its continued funding.

ATA is the representative organization of the Alaska troll fleet, which is one of the largest salmon fleets in the state. 85% of the troll fleet is resident Alaskan and most live in very small communities in Southeast Alaska. About 1 of every 35 people in Southeast works on a troll boat. Trollers harvest salmon with hook and line, delivering to market a premium wild salmon product. Our fleet, as well as every other salmon fishery in our region, is managed on salmon stocks that range from the Pacific Northwest to Alaska, all of which are subject to the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the Endangered Species Act, in addition to the rules set by other state and federal regulatory bodies. Therefore, the health and well-being of Pacific salmon is something we take quite seriously.

The goal of the PCSRF is to provide the necessary tools for the recovery and conservation of Pacific salmon and steelhead stocks. This iconic species and the people who rely on it have, in many cases, suffered in the face of development. It is essential not only to reclaim lost habitat where we can and rebuild those runs, but also to implement safeguards for the long-term protection of this important resource - even in areas where they still thrive. Fortunately, salmon are resilient and their needs are well-known, which allows those involved in the PCSRF program to quickly identify and implement practical solutions for salmon recovery and sustainable management.

The PCSRF has enabled agencies and the public to cooperate in the development of a progressive format that uses science and a concerned citizenry to guide a diverse program of research, habitat restoration, and improved fish passage. The successes already realized through the PCSRF include a half-million acres of restored habitat and the opening of nearly four thousand miles of stream. Additionally, the fund has contributed immensely to our ability to look ahead and protect salmon and their habitats through information gathering and best management practices for everything from streamside vegetation to supplemental enhancement.

As the PCSRF funds have made their way through the agencies, Tribal governments, and private sector, jobs have been created for thousands of Northwest and Alaska residents. Due to the strong region-wide reliance on salmon for food and sport, healthy salmon populations translate into jobs. Therefore, rejuvenation and maintenance of salmon stocks along the Pacific Coast is expected to create even more permanent job opportunities through the seafood and recreational sectors, not to mention the multitude of small and large businesses that support them.

Fishermen from California to Alaska rely on programs like the PCSRF to assist in rebuilding both salmon runs and long term prosperity in our coastal communities. Such collaborative efforts between multiple states, Tribal entities, local governments, interest groups, and individuals serve a vital purpose. We hope you agree and will work to continue funding the PCSRF.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Kelley".

Dale Kelley
Executive Director

cc:

Pete Orszag, Director, Office of Management & Budget

Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration