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PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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TESTIMONY OF W. RON ALLEN, CHAIRMAN/CEO
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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 2013
BUDGET FOR THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES
SERVICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

March 22, 2012

Mr. Chairman, my name is W. Ron Allen, and I serve as a Commissioner on the United States Section of Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). The PSC was established in 1985 to oversee implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (Treaty) between the U.S. and Canada. In May of 2008, the PSC concluded bilateral negotiations that developed revised ten year salmon fishing regimes to replace regimes that were expiring at the end of 2008. The provisions of the new fisheries agreements were approved by the U.S. and Canadian federal governments and are being implemented for the 2009-2018 period. The U.S. Section is requesting that Congress includes funding in the FY 2013 National Marine Fisheries Service Budget for (1) the Pacific Salmon Treaty at \$9,708,000; and, (2) the Chinook Salmon Agreement at \$1,844,000.

The implementation of the Treaty is funded through the Departments of Commerce, Interior and State. The Department of Commerce funds implementation of the Treaty as line items under Salmon Management Activities. The funding for Salmon Management Activities in the President's FY 2013 budget is similar to previous years. However, the line item breakout within Salmon Management Activities was not made available to us.

The U.S. Section recommends that Congress:

- Fund the Pacific Salmon Treaty Line Item of the National Marine Fisheries Service at \$9,708,000 for FY 2013 an increase in funding compared to \$5,600,000 in recent-year budgets. This funding provides 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. Included within the total amount of \$9,708,000 is \$400,000 to continue a joint Trans-boundary River Salmon Enhancement Program as required by the Treaty.

- Fund the Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook Salmon Agreement line item of the National Marine Fisheries Service for FY 2013 at \$1,844,000, level funding from what has been provided by Congress in recent years. This funding is necessary to acquire the technical information to fully implement the abundance-based Chinook salmon management program provided for under the Treaty.

The funding identified above is for ongoing annual programs and does not include new funding specifically needed for full application of the revised agreement for 2009-2018 that was negotiated by the PSC and accepted by the Governments of the U.S. and Canada on December 23, 2008. Funding for implementing the revised treaty arrangements was part of the National Marine Fisheries Service FY 2012 budget, and the U.S. PSC Commissioners recommend that it be continued in the FY 2013 federal budget.

The base Treaty implementation projects included in the Pacific Salmon Treaty Line Item 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 from Southeast Alaska to Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, the federal National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the 24 treaty tribes of Washington and Oregon are charged with conducting the salmon fishery stock assessment and harvest management actions required under the Treaty. Federal funding for these activities is provided through NMFS on an annual basis.

The agency projects carried out under PSC funding are directed toward acquiring, analyzing, and sharing the information required to implement the salmon conservation and sharing principles of the Treaty. A wide range of programs for salmon stock size assessments, escapement enumeration, stock distribution, and catch and effort information collection from fisheries are represented. The information from many of these programs is used directly to establish fishing seasons, harvest levels, and accountability to the provisions of Treaty fishing regimes.

The base Treaty implementation funding of approximately \$5.6 million budget has essentially remained at this low level since the early 1990's. Since that time, the growing complexity of conservation-based, and Endangered Species Act compliant fishing regimes has required vastly more stock assessment, fishery compliance

monitoring, and technical support activities. In order to continue to fulfill the federal commitments created by PST, the states have had to augment federal funding with other federal and state support. For example, additional sources of funding have included federal Anadromous Fish Grants, federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF), federal Dingeei-Johnson dollars, and state general funds. However, alternative sources for funding have been reduced or eliminated with the Anadromous Fish Grants eliminated in the federal FY 2010 budget, use of PCSRF monies constrained in FY 2010 by new appropriations language and further constrained in 2012 by the NMFS, and state dollars and Dingeei-Johnson grants cut significantly during the current economic downturn.

The economic impact of commercial and sport fisheries has been measured by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at approximately \$2-3 billion per year to the states involved in the PST. To continue to implement the federal PST conservation-based fishing regimes that contribute to the sustainability of salmon stocks and the large economic return to the states, the U.S. PSC members recommend an increase in base treaty implementation funding from the current \$5.6 million to \$9,708,000.

Effective, science-based implementation of negotiated salmon fishing arrangements and abundance-based management approaches for Chinook, southern Coho, Northern Boundary and Trans-boundary River salmon fisheries includes efforts such as increased annual tagging and tag recovery operations and application of other emerging stock identification techniques. The U.S. PSC members recommend that \$9,708,000 be provided for the NMFS Pacific Salmon Treaty Line Item in FY 2013 for the states for Treaty technical support activities. The \$400,000 that has been provided in the separate International Fisheries Commissions line item since 1988 for a joint Trans-boundary River enhancement program with Canada is now included in this amount. The recommended amount for the combined projects represents an approximate increase of \$4,108,000 over the amount appropriated for FY 2012.

Beginning in FY 1998, Congress provided \$1,844,000 to allow for the collection of necessary stock assessment and fishery management information to implement a new abundance-based management approach for Chinook salmon coast-wide in the Treaty area. Through a rigorous competitive technical review process for project approval, the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and the twenty-four treaty tribes use the funding to support research and data collection needed for abundance-based Chinook management. The U.S. Section recommends level funding of \$1,844,000 for FY 2013 to support the abundance-based Chinook salmon management program.

The U.S. and Canada agreed in 1988 to a joint salmon enhancement program on the Trans-boundary Rivers, which are rivers rising in Canada and flowing to the sea through Southeast Alaska. Since 1989, Congress has provided \$400,000 annually for this effort through the National Marine Fisheries Service International Fisheries

Commission line item under the Conservation and Management Operations activity. Canada provides an equal amount of funding and support for this bilateral program. The funding for the U.S. share is included in the \$9,708,000 the U.S. Section is recommending for the FY 2013 NMFS Pacific Salmon Treaty line item.

This concludes the Statement of the U.S. Section of the PSC submitted for consideration by your committee. We wish to thank the committee for the support that it has given us in the past. I will be pleased to answer any questions of the Committee Members.

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE: Pacific Salmon Treaty Line Item

<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 2011</u> <u>Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 13</u> <u>U.S. Section Recommendation</u>
\$5,610,000	\$5,600,000	\$9,708,000

The recommended FY 2013 amount includes \$400,000 provided for the Joint Trans-boundary River Enhancement Program currently funded under the NMFS International Fisheries Commission account.

Pacific Salmon Treaty - Chinook Salmon Agreement Line Item

<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 2011</u> <u>Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 2013</u> <u>U.S. Section Recommendation</u>
\$1,844,000	\$1,844,000	\$1,844,000

Thank you for this opportunity to share the FY 2013 budget requests of the Pacific Salmon Commission.