

# The Bush Administration is Conserving and Restoring Our Fisheries

## Salmon Recovery

- Pacific Northwest salmon stocks are major contributors to the region's sport and commercial ocean fisheries. Since 2000, Pacific salmon, listed under the Endangered Species Act, are becoming more abundant, in some cases up to 800 percent over recent lows, due in part to the Administration's investment in restoration and conservation partnerships. The following returns are a further reflection of the Administration's commitment to salmon recovery.
- The California Central Valley Chinook Production Index (CVI) 2000-03 average of 1,079,000 is more than twice the observed values from 10 years ago (1990-93 average of 460,000).
- Klamath River Fall chinook ocean abundance 2000-2003 average of 525,000 is three times the observed values from 10 years ago (1990-1993 average of 159,000). The Klamath River mouth return has been over 150,000 adults for three consecutive years (2000-2002).
- Recent yearly returns of Columbia River Upriver Spring chinook have been record-breaking. The returns in 2001 and 2002 were the highest since counting began at Bonneville Dam in 1938.
- Returns of Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery (SCNFH) fall chinook are up dramatically. Returns from 1990-2000 averaged less than 30,000, compared to recent returns near 100,000.
- Lower Columbia River Hatchery returns above 100,000 (2002 and 2003) were last seen in the late 1980s. Lower River Hatchery production is a major contributor to ocean and sport fisheries off Washington.
- Since 2001, NOAA has issued over \$289 million in grants to the states of California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska, as well as to numerous Tribes, for conservation and recovery of Pacific salmon species. In 2004, NOAA will issue an additional \$89 million in grants through this program with funding provided to the State of Idaho for the first time. The President's Budget for FY 2005 proposes an increase for a total of \$100 million for this program.
- In 2004, USDA provided \$3.5 million to private landowners in California, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to apply stream habitat conservation practices for the restoration and conservation of endangered and threatened salmon habitat.
- Since 2001, the Administration has provided over \$3 billion in discretionary funding (\$6 billion in combined discretionary and mandatory funding) to address Pacific Salmon issues in the Columbia River Basin.

## Sustainable Fisheries

- Since 2001, the Northeast Consortium, led by NOAA, has invested \$8.9 million in 58 cooperative research projects with commercial fishermen, and \$400,000 in development projects.
- Since 2001, NOAA, Regional Fishery Management Councils, and states have implemented numerous management actions to reduce the number of overfished marine fish stocks from 81 to 77, and 77 rebuilding plans are currently in place to restore marine fish stocks to healthy levels.
- In 2003, the Coast Guard achieved a 97.1 percent compliance rate with fisheries regulations, exceeding the goal of 97 percent.
- The Coast Guard conducted more than 3,400 at-seas fisheries boardings in 2003 to enforce safety, environmental, and economic laws.
- In 2003, NOAA released a National Bycatch Strategy for marine fisheries to further aid in reducing bycatch through fishing gear improvements, standardized reporting, and education and outreach, as well as a program to export bycatch technologies to other countries.
- In October 2003, NOAA launched the Oscar Dyson, the first of four planned fisheries survey vessels. The new vessels will be some of the most technologically advanced fisheries survey vessels in the world, providing critical data to improve marine fisheries management.
- In 2003, the U.S. Coast Guard, working with its partners, boarded and seized four People's Republic of China fishing vessels resulting in their permanent removal and the recovery of nearly 50 miles of driftnet from the North Pacific.

- In 2004, USDA is providing \$40 million for environmental programs in the Columbia River Basin, including the Columbia River Salmon Initiative.
- Since 2001, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed or bypassed 158 barriers, and restored access to 1,742 miles and 17,931 acres of historical habitats needed for many important species including Pacific salmon, American shad, herring, Atlantic salmon, and the American eel.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners tagged and released 2,708 striped bass and 3,393 other fishes in the 2004 Cooperative Winter Offshore Tagging Cruise in the south Atlantic, exceeding the cruise's 16-year average of 1,914 striped bass tags.
- In 2004, NOAA re-opened U.S. commercial long line swordfish fisheries in the Western Pacific which had been closed due to a high take of endangered marine turtles. For three years, NOAA experts partnered with the fishing industry in the Atlantic and Pacific to test experimental gear and techniques to reduce the turtle takes to acceptable levels under the Endangered Species Act.
- The value of commercial aquaculture is expected to grow to \$120 million by 2004 as a result of a modest investment by NOAA Research since 1998 (less than \$4 million per year). Recently-established stocks that began showing profits in 2000 of \$500,000 are projected to grow to nearly \$4 million for 2004.