

## **Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Reinstated in President's 2010 Budget**

As many of you may have heard, the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) was not initially included in President Obama's recently proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget to Congress. This was of great concern to the Puget Sound Partnership. Since its inception in 2000, PCSRF, in addition to state dedicated funds, has been the foundation for funding salmon habitat restoration and protection projects to implement the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan. However, the lack of inclusion in the President's budget put these funds at critical risk. Without this dedicated federal funding, successful recovery of listed salmon in Puget Sound is at risk.

Upon learning the news that PCSRF was not in the President's proposed budget, David Dicks, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership and Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair of the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council, immediately began working with Governor Gregoire and Washington State's congressional delegation to address this urgent issue, and to articulate the program's value and history of effectively advancing recovery of threatened and endangered West Coast salmon species listed under the Endangered Species Act. During a recent trip to Washington, D.C., Bill Ruckelshaus also met with Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration to discuss the issue. U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Washington, wrote a letter to Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, Peter Orszag, Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, and Lubchenco. The letter was signed by 29 other members of Congress, including U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington, and U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Washington.

Good news came yesterday. The Obama Administration agreed to reinstate PCSRF in the budget, including \$50 million for 2010 funding. The quick, strong effort of Washington State's congressional leaders and the Obama Administration's decision to reinstate PCSRF demonstrates a recognition of and support for the critical need to advance salmon recovery in our region.

We are grateful to Secretary Locke and Administrator Lubchenco for their hard work in remedying this issue. We are also grateful to Sen. Murray, Sen. Cantwell, and Rep. Dicks along with the rest of the delegation for their enormous efforts.

For more information, please see links below to media releases from Sen. Murray's Office and Representative Dicks' Office.

Media release from Sen. Patty Murray:

<http://murray.senate.gov/news.cfm?id=313404>

Media release from Rep. Norm Dicks:

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/speech/wa06\\_dicks/morenews1/pcsrfs.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/speech/wa06_dicks/morenews1/pcsrfs.html)