



Agenda Item C.2.a
Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1
November 2023

West Coast FY2024 Priorities

Jennifer Quan
Regional Administrator

Nicolle Hill
Acting NW Science Director

Kristen Koch
SW Science Director

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Overview

- Inflation Reduction Act Update
- West Coast Region
- Northwest Fisheries Science Center
- Southwest Fisheries Science Center
- Aligning West Coast Priorities

Inflation Reduction Act Update



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Oversight of over \$1.2B of NOAA's \$3.3B IRA funding

<i>Expand and Modernize Stock Assessments</i>	Data Acquisition and Management	\$145M
	Climate, Ecosystems, & Fisheries Initiative	\$40M
<i>Region-Specific Fisheries and Protected Resources</i>	Pacific Salmon	\$42M
	Regional Fisheries Management Councils	\$20M
	North Atlantic Right Whale	\$82M
	Red Snapper	\$20M
<i>Tribal Fish Hatcheries</i>	Mitchell Act Hatcheries	\$60M
	Non-Mitchell Act Hatcheries	\$240M
Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage		\$484M
Arctic Research		\$2.9M
Efficient Permitting		\$15.5M
Facilities		\$95M

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/climate/helping-america-prepare-and-respond-climate-change-under-inflation-reduction-act>



IRA: Data Acquisition and Management - \$145M

(\$110M, Data Acquisition / \$37.5M, Data Modernization)

- Advanced technologies, modern data systems, and infrastructure that expand and modernize stock assessments to account for climate change
- Cooperative partnerships with fishing industry, academia, state partners

Result: Increases number and types of observations possible, moving us toward the greater sampling required to manage the nation's large marine ecosystems.



IRA: Climate, Ecosystems, & Fisheries Initiative - \$40M (OAR: \$16M | NMFS: \$20M | NOS: \$4M)

- **Cross-agency focus:**
 - Develop ocean ecosystem predictions in preparing for climate-driven problems
 - How the predictions extend to coastal communities and economies
 - Projected impacts
 - How coastal communities will use predictions to increase resilience/viability of their fisheries
- **NMFS:** Establish initial Decision Support Teams and operational production of climate-informed advice at each Fisheries Science Center.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

PCSRF

\$172M over 5 years

for PCSRF, in addition to regular annual appropriations for the program

Inflation Reduction Act

Pacific Salmon

\$42M

- \$15M for PCSRF awards
- \$27M for W. Coast salmon research



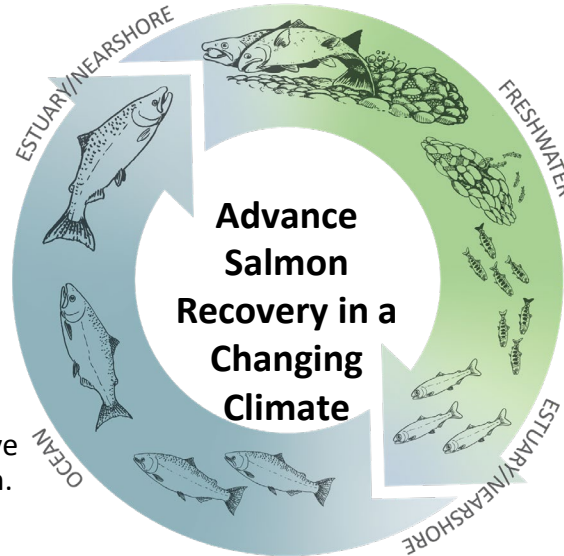
IRA Pacific Salmon Science Themes

Integrated Model Development and Application

- Improved confidence in management decisions supported by LCMs
- A widely-used generalized life cycle modeling tool
- Robust recovery strategy evaluations
- Modeling tools transferable to multiple salmon species

Ocean and Nearshore Ecology

- Ocean productivity indicators that improve predictions of salmon survival and growth.
- Quantification of pinniped and avian predation rates.
- New indicators of primary production and lower trophic level energetics that improve ecosystem assessments.



Restoration, Reintroduction, and Recovery Techniques

- Science-based indicators used to make meaningful conservation and management decisions
- Information shared with partner organizations thru a web-based dashboard
- Strategies to enhance success of reintroductions and improve conservation and traditional hatcheries for long term benefit of listed species

Habitat Stressors in Freshwater and Estuary Environments

- Use of toxicity data in salmon management decisions
- Thresholds for stormwater toxicity across salmonid life stages and species



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IRA and Tribal Fish Hatcheries - \$300M

Mitchell Act Hatcheries (\$60M)

To support high-priority deferred maintenance for Mitchell Act Hatcheries for federally recognized tribes' federally reserved fishing rights in the Columbia River Basin.

Timeline: RFP Oct 2023; Applications Nov 2023

Non-Mitchell Act Hatcheries (\$240M)

To support high-priority deferred maintenance for non-Mitchell Act hatcheries for federally recognized tribes' federally reserved fishing rights along the Pacific Coast.

Timeline: Spring/Summer 2024

IRA: Regional Fisheries Management Councils Funding

- \$20M in total funding from FY2023 to FY2026
- Implement IRA specific grants to each Council
- FY2024 Request for Proposals
 - Fishery management measures to advance climate ready fisheries and support underserved communities
 - Requirements
 - Minimum of \$300K per proposal
 - Implemented or in the final phases of approval by 2027
 - Sustained with no additional post-IRA funds



Facilities



West Coast Region



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West Coast Region FY23 Accomplishments

Sustainable Fisheries

- Completed 6 fisheries specification & management measure actions
- Authorized use of deep-set buoy gear for commercial swordfish harvest
- Transitioned management of Area 2A Pacific halibut fisheries from IPHC to NMFS
- Adopted record number of IATTC resolutions supporting HMS fisheries
- Proposed rule to create new fishing area flexibilities for groundfish non-trawl sector
- Approved SONCC coho harvest control rule

Recovery of Protected Species

- Funded 16 PCSRF habitat restoration projects totaling \$106.1M
- Completed ESA 5-year status reviews for salmon and steelhead
- Continued work on Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans
- Advanced gear and line marking improvements in the sablefish pot fishery

Supporting responsible development of offshore activities

- Published scoping report for Southern California Aquaculture Opportunity Areas
- Engaged with BOEM on offshore wind energy development



West Coast Region FY24 Priorities

Sustainable Fisheries

- Harvest specifications and management measures
- IATTC: Adopt conservation and management measures for tropical tuna species and Pacific bluefin tuna
- Process EFP alternative gear applications for North Pacific swordfish and other marketable HMS
- Pacific Whiting Treaty Implementation
- Allocate IRA funding for deferred maintenance at Tribal hatcheries
- Implement Electronic Monitoring in the groundfish fishery
- Roundtable discussions with West Coast saltwater recreational anglers



West Coast Region FY24 Priorities

Protected Species Recovery

- Invest in Pacific salmon habitat and fish passage (PCSRF and BIL/IRA)
- Complete ESA 5-year status reviews for twelve salmon populations
- Advance goals for harvestable and healthy salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin
- Accelerate priority "Treaty Rights at Risk" initiatives actions
- Support Klamath Dam removal
- Advance reintroduction and passage efforts for Central Valley Chinook salmon
- Assist states on conservation plans to reduce whale entanglements
- Reduce threats to Southern Resident killer whales from vessel and noise impacts



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West Coast Region FY24 Priorities

Support Responsible Development of Offshore Activities

- Southern California Aquaculture Opportunity Areas
- Provide coordination & technical assistance to offshore wind development

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

- Advance diversity and inclusion in our recruitment and hiring processes
- Develop regional EEJ implementation plan, engage with underserved communities

Working Together with PFMC

- WCR Staffing
- Workload Priorities



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Northwest Fisheries Science Center



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Northwest Fisheries Science Center FY23 Accomplishments

Sustainable Fisheries

Data Collection (surveys and bycatch monitoring)

- Completed the full slate of West Coast fisheries surveys supporting stock assessments
- Initiated Integrated West Coast Pelagics Survey design and hosted listening sessions with fishing industry and stakeholders

Stock Assessment and Management Strategy Evaluation

- Completed benchmark assessments for petrale sole and copper, black, and canary rockfishes.
- Conducted an unscheduled update for sablefish that confirmed the impact of unprecedented recruitment success in 2020-21.
- Conducted annual Economic Data Collection program
- Published 11th year of the California Current Ecosystem Status Report

Aquaculture

- Released the Center's Aquaculture 5-10 Science Strategy, and have begun sharing



Northwest Fisheries Science Center FY23 Accomplishments

Protected Species Recovery

- Released the Center's Salmon Recovery Science 5-10 Year Strategy
- Documented inbreeding in Southern Resident Killer Whales
- Participated in multiple 5-year Endangered Species Act biological and status reviews to provide expert science advice.

Understanding Impacts of Offshore Activities

- Worked with the WCR and ODFW to provide a spatial analysis of fisheries effort and revenue for NOAA's NCCOS model BOEM used to identify draft Wind Energy Areas off Oregon
- Led development of a West Coast OSW Science plan, which we plan to share in FY24

Organizational Excellence

- 13 Positions filled, including Dr. Kayleigh Somers Groundfish Endangered Species Workgroup



Northwest Fisheries Science Center FY24 Priorities

Sustainable Fisheries

Data Collection (surveys and bycatch monitoring):

- Develop the Integrated West Coast Pelagics Survey to improve efficiency and reliability
- Develop advances in stock monitoring to support climate-ready fisheries and ecosystem-based fishery management
- Conduct workshop to consider options for expanding the Hook & Line Survey and other options
- Produce protected species bycatch reports for the Groundfish BiOp
- Provide national leadership on OpenScapes, providing team-based training in reproducible scientific workflows and platforms across science centers

Stock assessments and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSEs):

- Conduct hake stock assessment
- Testing climate-readiness of harvest strategy for Pacific hake
- Outreach on transboundary sablefish MSE results
- Data collection and economic analysis of catch shares fisheries management, recreational and non-catch-share commercial fisheries

Aquaculture:

- Work with tribes and industry to develop new technology, mitigate risk, enhance resilience to climate change, and reduce management uncertainty.



Northwest Fisheries Science Center FY24 Priorities

Ecosystem Based Fishery Management

Regional NOAA Climate Ecosystem and Fisheries Initiatives (CEFI)

- Implement the CEFI plan on the West Coast in coordination and collaboration with SWFSC
- Improve understanding of climate impacts across NMFS mission

Understanding impacts of offshore activities

- Starting to meet with CA developers to discuss the science our surveys provide
- Gather feedback on West Coast OSW Science plan

Recovery of Protected Species

- Complete listing process evaluation for Olympic Peninsula Steelhead
- Implement our Salmon Recovery Science Strategy through IRA and other funding
- Continue research and monitoring of Southern Resident killer whales

Organizational Excellence

- Prioritize a multi-year workforce plan that includes diversity and succession considerations
- Continue steps to move the Montlake campus to a new, leased facility and make capital improvements to Manchester and Sand Point facilities



Southwest Fisheries Science Center



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Southwest Fisheries Science Center FY23 Accomplishments

Sustainable Fisheries

Data Collection (surveys and bycatch monitoring)

- California Current Ecosystem for Coastal Pelagic Species, 4 CalCOFI surveys
- 41st annual rockfish recruitment and ecosystem assessment surveys

Stock Assessment and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSEs)

- Stock assessments - CPS, HMS, groundfish, salmon
 - Benchmark assessments on Pacific mackerel and North Pacific albacore
 - Sardine stock structure and methods review workshop
 - Copper and Black rockfish (in collaboration with NWFSC)
 - Salmon: Klamath River fall-run Chinook salmon, Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon, Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, and Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon
- Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)- Pacific bluefin tuna (in progress)
- 2022-23 California Current Ecosystem Status Report (ESR) delivered to the PPMC



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FY23 Accomplishments

Protected Species Recovery

- Completed whale and turtle entanglement risk assessment research in the CCLME
- Conducted California-wide egg thiamine surveillance for salmonids at all hatcheries in CA
- Conservation Aquaculture: Successful captive propagation and out-planting support for white abalone restoration activities

Understanding impacts of offshore activities

- Provided subject matter expertise on offshore wind energy development
- Research of finfish species (e.g. *Seriola* spp.) to assess aquaculture risks.

Staffing updates

PFMC Council Committees:

- 10 positions filled, including Michael O'Farrell as STT Chair



Southwest Fisheries Science Center FY24 Priorities

Sustainable Fisheries

Data Collection (surveys and bycatch monitoring):

- California Current Ecosystem Survey (Summer) + Net system testing with NWFSC to plan for the integrated joint survey
- CalCOFI surveys (4 seasons)
- 42nd Rockfish recruitment and Ecosystem Assessment survey
- Juvenile salmon and ecosystem survey
- Bycatch monitoring and identification in the CA Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME)
- California Current Ecosystem Marine Mammal survey
- Continue implementing Advanced Technologies to Reduce ship time

Stock assessments and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSEs):

- Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS)
 - Benchmark assessment for Pacific sardine
- Highly Migratory Species (HMS)
 - Benchmark assessments for Pacific Bluefin tuna and Shortfin Mako shark
 - Continue MSE for Bluefin tuna
- Groundfish
 - Improving data sources & modeling approaches for the FY25 assessments(CA quillback & China rockfish)
- Salmon
 - California salmon stock abundance and fishing effort forecasts
 - Assist PFMC with development of new conservation objectives for the Sacramento River & Klamath River Chinook salmon stocks.



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Southwest Fisheries Science Center FY24 Priorities

Protected Species Recovery

- **Recovery Plan research actions for ESA-listed species**
 - Pacific leatherback turtles & humpback whales
 - Salmon: Sacramento River winter run Chinook & Central CA Coast coho
 - White abalone - Continue captive propagation and out-planting support for White Abalone restoration
- **Whale and sea turtle entanglement: CCLME risk assessments and stranding response**

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)

- **Annual Ecosystem Status Report to the Council**
 - California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment ESR
- **NOAA Climate and Fisheries Initiative**
 - Implement the NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy
 - Support the NOAA Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI)
- **Understanding impacts of offshore activities**
 - Offshore wind energy development- effects on resources and protected species.

Organizational Excellence

- Implement SWFSC reorganization to create Ecosystem Science Division + 10 Year Center Science Vision
- Maintain and support SWFSC Council AB appointments



West Coast Aligned Priorities

Sustainable Fisheries

- Enhance stock assessments and management in response to a changing climate
- Strengthen data collection including surveys, bycatch monitoring
- Implement harvest specifications and management measures
- Support the NOAA Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative
- Provide coordination and technical assistance to support responsible offshore development, including wind energy and aquaculture

Protected Species Recovery

- Advance recovery of protected species
- Reduce fisheries bycatch and whale entanglement
- Protect and restore critical habitat

Organizational Excellence

- Improve diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within our workforce and workplace, and across the communities we serve
- Engage with communities, tribes, and partners to develop a west coast regional equity and environmental justice implementation plan

