

Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund 2019 Objectives

Habitat Conservation

Projects proposed under objectives 1 - 3 must directly attain long-term conservation of salmon habitat; secondary activities and objectives (e.g., planning, prioritizing, and ancillary surveys or data collection) are not allowed as standalone projects, but they are allowed as project components if they are necessary to successfully complete the project. Extra scrutiny will be given to projects wherein secondary activities comprise a large portion of the budget. Preference will be given to projects in areas with a high potential for habitat degradation or that benefit salmon populations utilized for subsistence.

- **Objective 1:** Submit reservation of water applications on salmon streams or lakes
Note: Although data may be collected by any entity, reservation of water applications must be submitted solely by ADF&G. Therefore, applicants are required to provide assurance from the department that ADF&G is willing to collaborate on the project. Please call 907-465-8493 to speak with an ADF&G hydrologist.
- **Objective 2:** Submit nominations to the *Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes*
- **Objective 3:** Conserve salmon habitat by land acquisition, easement, or other mechanism

Habitat Restoration

With the exception of habitat assessments to prioritize fish passage restoration projects, projects proposed under objectives 4 - 6 must result in on-the-ground restoration of salmon habitat (i.e., they must directly restore fish passage; eradicate, suppress, or contain invasive species; or restore instream habitat). Secondary activities (e.g., planning, prioritization, engineering/design work, developing or testing methods, ancillary data collection, outreach, and monitoring) are not allowed as standalone projects, but they are allowed as project components. Extra scrutiny will be given to projects wherein secondary activities other than effectiveness monitoring comprise a large portion of the budget. To the extent possible, methods should focus on the restoration of self-sustaining natural ecosystem functions and processes (e.g., re-establishing floodplain connection and function, restoring natural river-channel migration, re-establishing ecologically functional riparian buffers), natural features, and native vegetation. Nonvegetative approaches, such as rock rip-rap, to stabilize banks should be avoided. These objectives are not intended to address habitat impacts caused by changes in natural environmental conditions (e.g., changes in stream routes or hydrology caused by beaver activity or shifting glacier streams), or to increase the productivity of systems through nutrient enrichment/fertilization. Preference will be given to projects that benefit salmon populations utilized for subsistence.

- **Objective 4:** Restore fish passage on water bodies utilized by salmon (or conduct habitat assessments to prioritize fish passage restoration projects)

Note: Applicants are encouraged to utilize existing inventories (if applicable) that characterize fish passage conditions (e.g., ADF&G's Fish Passage Inventory Database: <http://extra.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/FishResourceMonitor/?mode=culv>).

- **Objective 5:** Eradicate, suppress, or contain invasive species that are known to be detrimental to salmon

Note: Preference will be given to eradication projects.

Central Region note: Species of primary concern are northern pike (*Esox lucius*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and waterweed (*Elodea* spp.).

Southeast Region note: Species of primary concern are reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), and waterweed (*Elodea* spp.).

- **Objective 6:** Restore instream habitat through bank stabilization, revegetation, or restoration of natural channel structure, morphology, or connectivity

Monitoring and Assessment

Projects funded under objectives 7 - 10 must be necessary for the exercise of subsistence fishing or contribute to sustaining salmon populations utilized for subsistence. Applicants must articulate how the project meets this criterion and one or more of the following conditions:

- *Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (see 5 AAC 01.100-01.760) are not being met (or are at risk of not being met)*
- *The fishery has considerable participation by subsistence users*
- *Harvests in the subsistence fishery have been reduced (or are likely to be reduced) due to an apparent decline in salmon abundance*

Secondary activities (e.g., developing new methods including genetic tools/markers/baselines, conducting retrospective analyses, collecting ancillary data, or conducting outreach activities) are not allowed as standalone projects, but they are allowed as project components if they are necessary to successfully complete the project. Extra scrutiny will be given to projects wherein secondary activities comprise a large portion of the budget.

- **Objective 7:** Estimate escapement of salmon populations utilized for subsistence
- **Objective 8:** Estimate abundance of juvenile salmon in populations utilized for subsistence
- **Objective 9:** Estimate harvest or other sources of mortality of salmon populations utilized for subsistence
- **Objective 10:** Investigate causes of declines of Chinook salmon populations utilized for subsistence

Habitat Resiliency

Projects proposed under this category must ensure that all data products such as geospatial models are open access and publicly available. Preference will be given to projects that are inclusive of salmon populations utilized for subsistence. For projects that develop a regional or statewide framework, preference will be given to interdisciplinary approaches that incorporate individuals with expertise in salmon ecology, subsistence salmon fisheries, hydrology, population genetics, and climate science.

- **Objective 11:** Conduct climate impact studies to identify high value habitats (e.g., cold-water refugia) or potential “salmon strongholds” to guide the selection of future AKSSF projects.