



PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

2023-2028

VISION

The Commission will remain agile and continue to meet existing and emerging needs of its member states for interjurisdictional fisheries issues.

MISSION

To promote and implement conservation, development, and management of fishery resources of mutual concern to member states.

BACKGROUND

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission was created in 1947 through a compact entered into by the states of Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington with the consent of the Congress of the United States of America. The focus of the original compact was the better utilization of the Pacific Coast's marine-, shell-, and anadromous fisheries. PSMFC has carried out a variety of work for its member states over the ensuing 75 years.

Currently PSMFC facilitates work across the member states through: its program and funding administration; policy development; staffing; data management; and collaborative processes. This work is organized around the five strategic goals described below.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1

Effective Fishery Policy Development

PSMFC works throughout the year to advance Commission priorities in support of inter-jurisdictional fisheries. This occurs during development of resolutions and priorities through the annual meeting process. These policies and priorities are then carried out through our work with federal agencies, Congressional offices, and our participation in the fishery management council and Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee processes.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

- Number of annual resolutions successfully implemented

Objective 1.1 Develop and Advance PSMFC Resolutions and Priorities

To understand and agree on Commission priorities through the development of annual resolutions as part of the annual business meeting and subsequently work through Capitol Hill outreach, the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, and fishery management councils to advance those priorities.

GOAL 2

Serve as a resource for state and federal partners in carrying out their fisheries mandates

PSMFC administers numerous programs to aid our member states in implementing fishery management. In doing so, PSMFC prides itself on remaining agile and responsive to members' needs. PSMFC maintains a flexible environment to allow for new programs and to solve unique challenges that arise as fisheries and climates change.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Number of data collection partners, data users, and data sources hosted.
- Number of active projects focused on data consolidation, analytics and accessibility.
- Number of active projects to reduce and report bycatch of fish or protected species in fisheries.
- Number of ongoing habitat related projects.
- Amount of funding distributed to reduce potential Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) invasions or monitor range expansions.
- Number of active programs to reduce predation on salmon and steelhead.

Objective 2.1 Fishery Dependent and Independent Data Collection and Management

Collect, consolidate, and manage data for management of West Coast and Alaska marine and anadromous fisheries. Assist partners with pass-through funding, staffing, and technical assistance and expertise, as appropriate. Build, maintain, and update regional data warehouses for use by West Coast and Alaska state, federal, and tribal fishery managers, analysts, and scientists. Improve data collection, integration, and management.

Examples include:

- PACFIN
- AKFIN
- Electronic monitoring and reporting
- Individual fishing quota (IFQ) catch monitors
- West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) observers and NMFS West Coast Region observers
- Electronic fish tickets
- Federal non-trawl groundfish e-logbook
- Oregon & Washington commercial albacore sampling

- RECFIN
- Angler harvest surveys (ODFW, CDFW, WDFW marine recreational fisheries surveys)
- Angler phone and internet harvest surveys
- Cooperative sampling programs
- Fish Passage Center
- PTAGIS
- StreamNet
- Coordinated assessments
- Regional Mark Processing Center
- Smolt monitoring program
- Coastal cutthroat trout database Project
- Ageing lab
- Social and economic data collection; field surveys, carcass surveys, spawning surveys
- Fish marking and tagging

Objective 2.2 Data Products, Analytics, and Access

Provide access to analytical data products that aid state and federal agencies in devising and implementing optimal policies for West Coast and Alaska fisheries. Key areas include developing downstream data products and analytics to support stock assessment, regional management, and research, as well as in-season tracking of stocks and related dependent fishing activities. Provide seamless access to data products and analytics through secure online applications, Business Intelligence tools, and other access applications, including those that support reproducible workflows.

Objective 2.3 Bycatch Reduction

To reduce and report bycatch in fisheries and to prevent fish waste. Activities include: Assisting in the design and testing of gear modifications to minimize the catch of unwanted species; working with industry on techniques to minimize marine mammal entanglements in fishing gear, purchase and distribution of barotrauma reduction supplies in groundfish fisheries; developing mobile fish ID applications for use by recreational anglers, outreach and education; demonstration of safe handling techniques; assist partners in developing reports to track bycatch, as well as for regulatory reporting obligations.

Objective 2.4 Habitat

To aid in the protection, restoration, and monitoring of fish habitat in streams, estuaries, nearshore, and ocean. This work supports the ecosystem processes and conditions that are essential to anadromous, estuarine, and marine fish throughout their life cycle. Programs assist, coordinate, or fund initiatives at regional, state, and local levels. Activities include:

Providing support to multi-party groups (e.g. West Coast fish habitat partnerships, PMEP, CA Fish Passage Forum, Klamath Cooperative, National Fish Habitat Partnership, watershed collaboratives); improve and support restoration practitioner knowledge; produce educational materials; advise the Pacific Fishery Management Council on habitat issues through participation in the group's Habitat Committee and other ad-hoc initiatives, and serve on or provide input to state groups developing habitat policy or knowledge; and monitoring the effectiveness of habitat restoration projects and plans including Intensively Monitored Watersheds, CA Fish Passage projects, and Lifecycle Monitoring.

Objective 2.5 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

To prevent and minimize the impacts of AIS, particularly those species that affect fisheries and the habitat upon which those fisheries depend. The program elements include prevention, research, monitoring, education and outreach, and inter-jurisdictional planning and coordination in coastal and inland waters. Key program areas include:

Promoting the development and implementation of safe, economical, effective management of AIS associated with West Coast shipping and management of ballast water; providing research and management support for state, tribal, federal, and university partners in the US and Canada related to European green crab on the West Coast and Alaska; and preventing the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels and other invasive species into the Columbia River basin. This involves aquatic plant control, vessel decontamination, and rapid response coordination.

Objective 2.6 Predator Control

To monitor and reduce predation on protected fish stocks where an interjurisdictional approach or assistance is needed. Examples include Northern Pikeminnow management, and sea lion monitoring and removal.

GOAL 3

Funding Administration

PSMFC aids member states and NOAA Fisheries in the effective disbursement of funding to achieve fisheries program objectives including capacity reduction, replacement of lost income due to fisheries disasters, and upgrades to new technologies.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Amount of funding disbursed annually
- Time from award receipt to disbursement of payments

Objective 3.1 Fisheries Disaster Relief

To efficiently distribute fisheries disaster relief to affected state and tribal communities with the input and engagement of those affected communities.

Objective 3.2 Fisheries Reimbursement

To administer expense reimbursement programs for fisheries monitoring equipment, permit retirement, and new technology upgrades.

GOAL 4

Collaboration

PSMFC works to bring a multitude of constituencies together to help address interjurisdictional fisheries issues aiming to provide consistent consideration of different species across jurisdictions.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

- Number of collaborative processes supported

Objective 4.1 Support Collaborative Processes

To support conferences, symposia, partnerships, and technical committees. Examples include: Lamprey Conservation Initiative, the US/Canada groundfish conference, Steelhead conference, Cutthroat symposium, CA Fish Passage forum, Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership (PMEP), AK habitat partnerships, and other state and federal meetings.

GOAL 5

Administrative Support

PSMFC has a strong foundation of human resources, information technology, and finance personnel that provide professional administrative services to our programs and member states.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Duration in position – the average length of service for full year employees.
- IT system uptime – the amount of time the system is running, not counting downtime for security incidents or system operation failures.
- Financial health of the organization as determined through annual audits.

Objective 5.1 To hire professional and accountable staff, develop team members in a way that promotes the mission of the Commission, and implement succession planning efforts to mitigate potential gaps in knowledge.

Objective 5.2 To maintain continuous information technology operations that allow for the efficient conduct of PSMFC business and provide system security

Objective 5.3 To maintain an efficient and timely fiscal operation that keeps all of the Commission's work on track, including processing sub-grants, contracts, and invoices in a timely manner, ensuring adequate cash flow, and prompt payment to subgrantees and contractors.

Objective 5.4 To serve as a GIS resource to our state and federal partners and aid program areas with novel GIS analytical solutions.

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