



PSMFC Idaho Update, 2024

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PSMFC Annual Meeting – Monterey, CA - 2024



Quagga Mussel Update

Quagga Mussels – Detection and Treatment

- Quagga mussel veligers detected in mid-Snake River September 18, 2023
- Rapid response included:
 - Waterbody closures, signage, mandatory decontamination, public outreach
 - Expanded mussel sampling (CJ Strike to American Falls)
 - Fish sampling
- >46,400 gallons of Natrix® applied from October 3 – October 13
 - Copper levels monitored until recorded as back to normal levels (October 18)



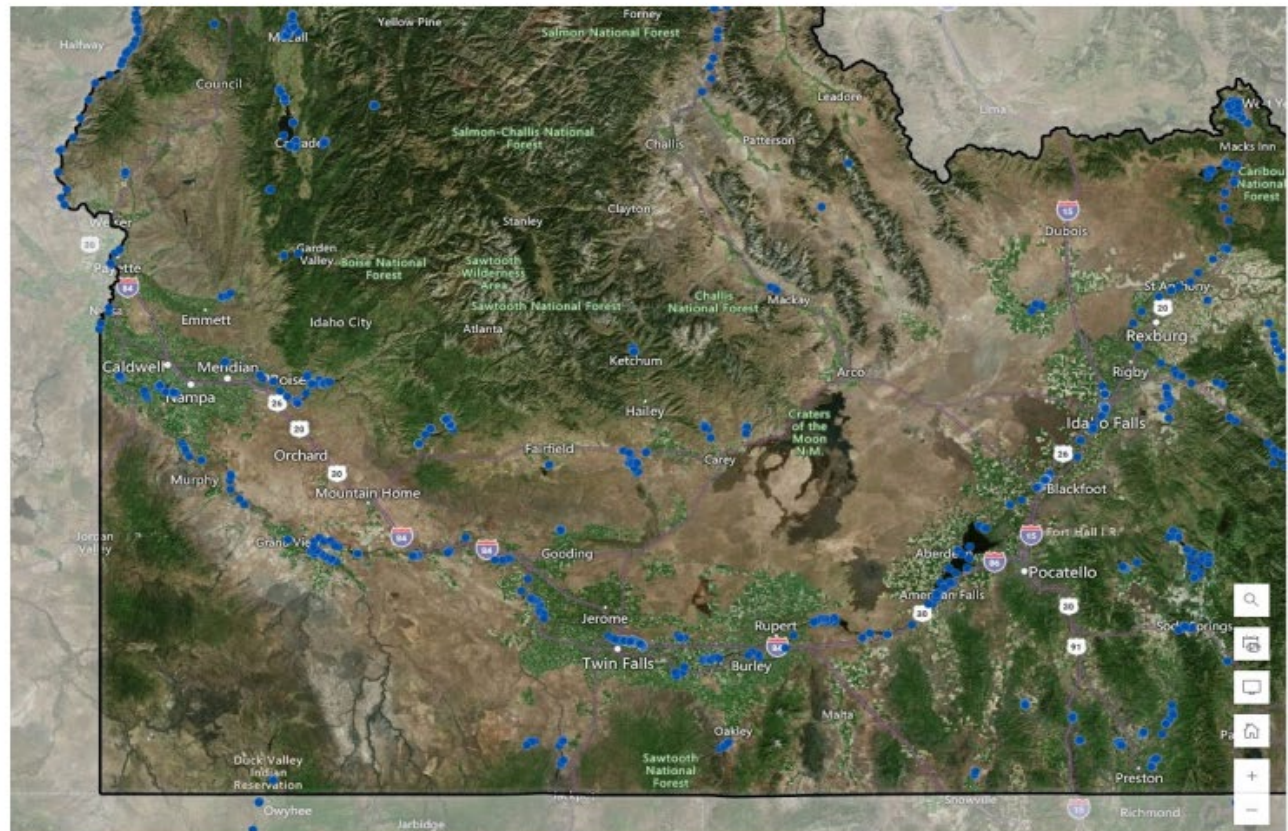
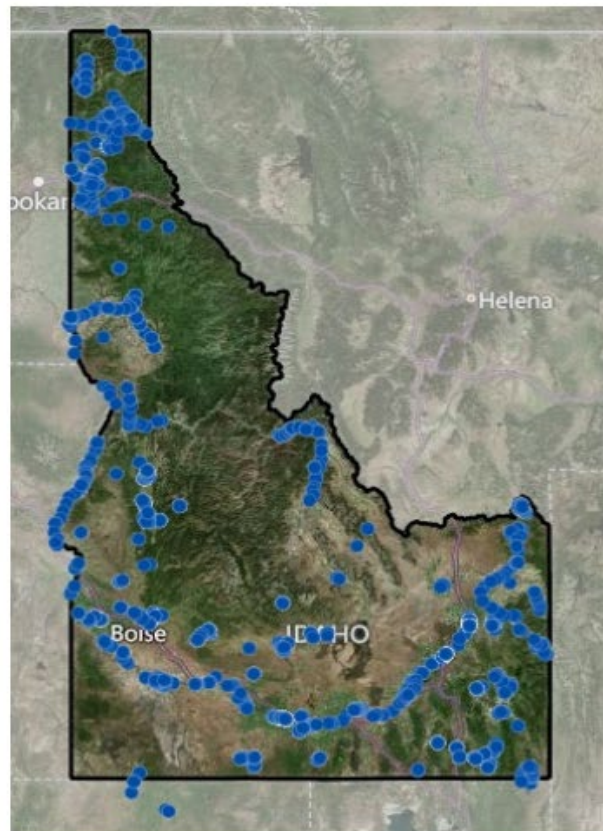
Post-treatment fisheries monitoring



Varying levels of fish mortality by
species and size

Quagga Mussels – 2024 Monitoring

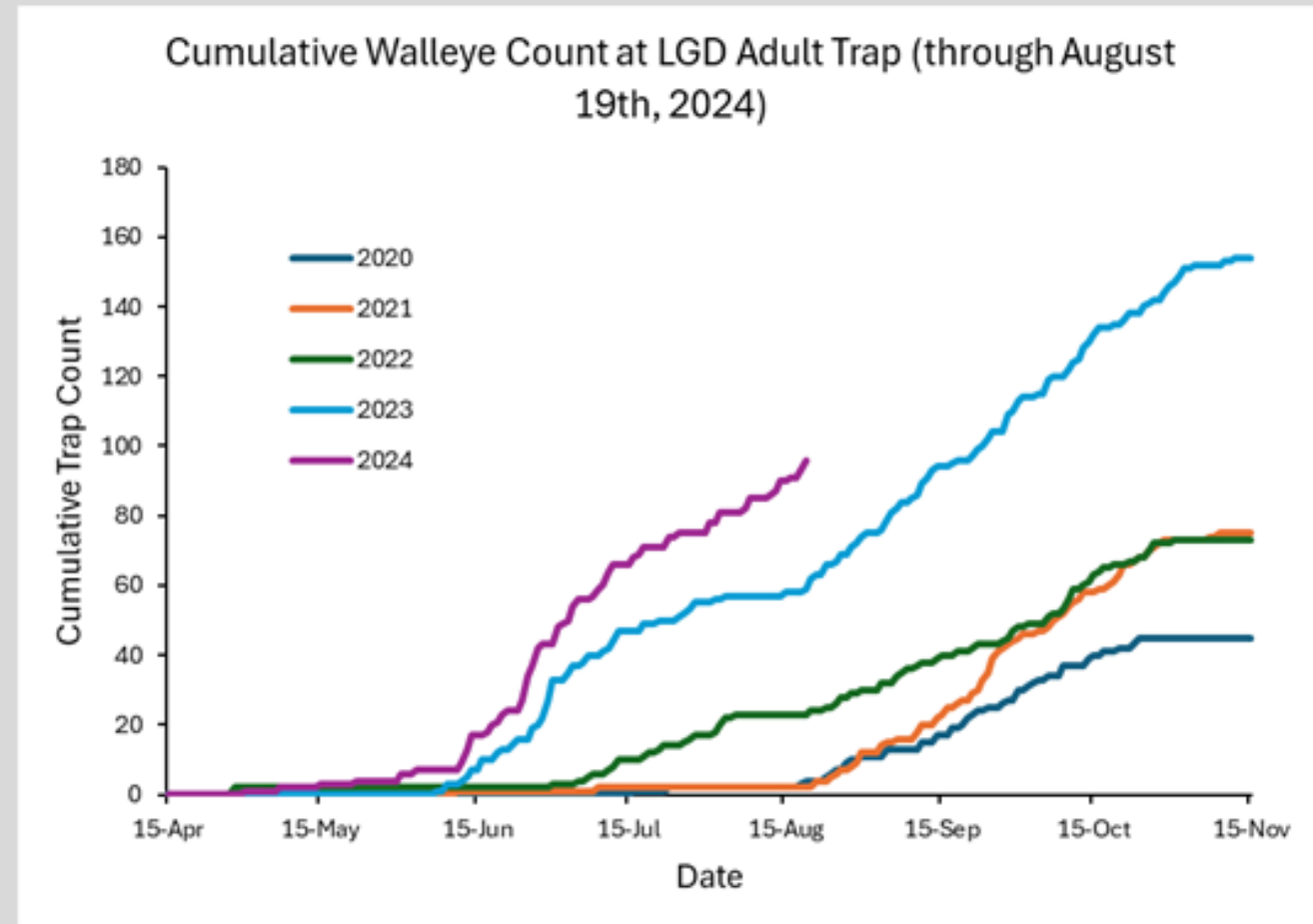
- Monitoring efforts doubled statewide
 - Veliger: ≈3,000 plankton samples from 80 waterbodies
 - Adult: ≈3,000 visual monitoring surveys conducted
 - eDNA sampling



Columbia/Snake River Predation

Walleye

- Walleye numbers increasing in Snake River above LGD
- Confirmed catch as far up as Salmon River near Riggins
- Regional Walleye Work Group created to work on path forward
 - Participants have included staff from: IDFG, ODFW, WDFW, NPT, CTUIR, NOAA, BPA, USGS, PSMFC
 - Goal to implement research and management to minimize piscine predation by non-native fishes on anadromous species within the Snake basin



Avian

- Idaho has seen increased presence of avian predators in anadromous waters
- Few applications for Western take (USFWS Permit 21.123) of cormorants
 - Opportunity to prioritize cormorant control in Columbia and Snake rivers



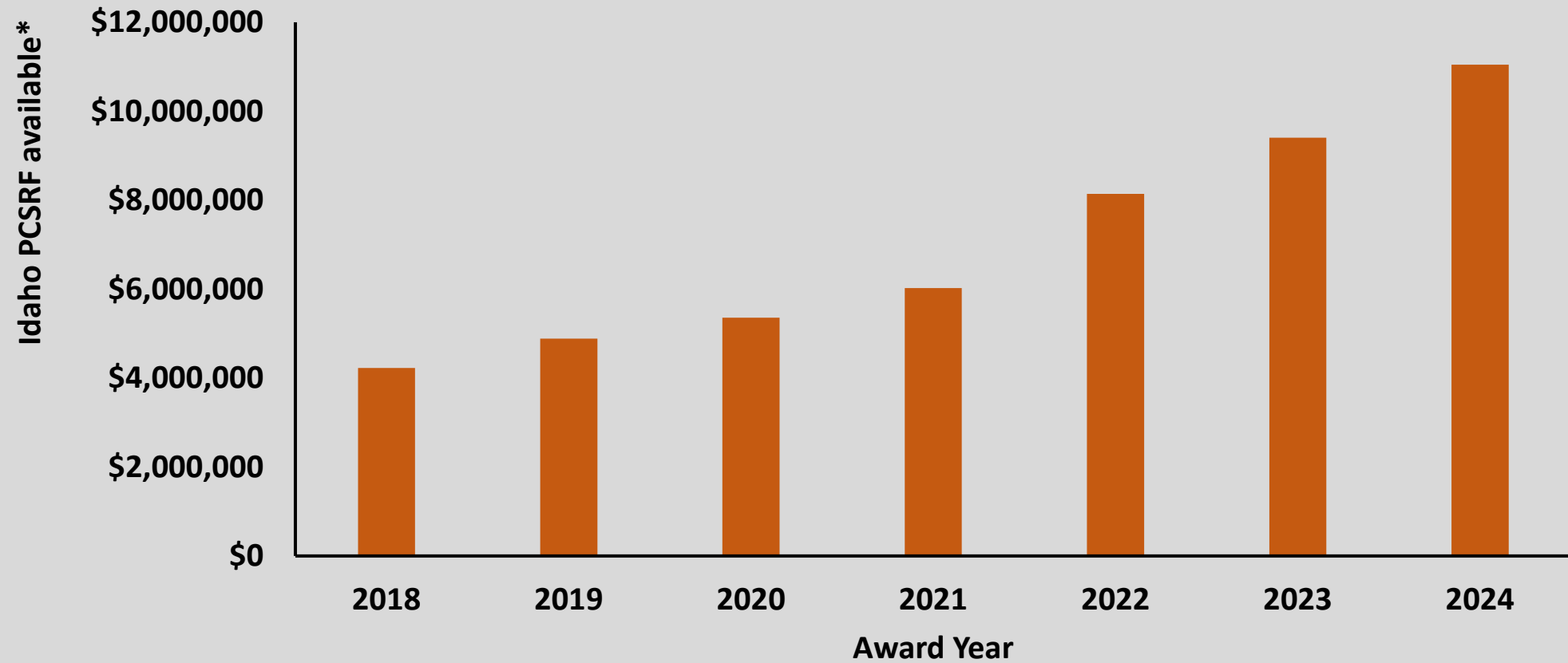
NOAA Budget

Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)

- ≈70% of IDFG's Anadromous Fish Habitat Program (\$5 M - \$7 M annually)
- Typically, 4-8 projects/ year
- ≈55% of Habitat Effectiveness Monitoring (\$550K-\$700K annually)
- BPA Accord match



Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)



* Includes rollover funds from previous fiscal years

Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW)

- Funds 30-40% of Habitat Effectiveness Monitoring
- Wider scope than PSCRF
 - Bull Trout and other resident fisheries monitoring
- Field crew personnel



Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST)

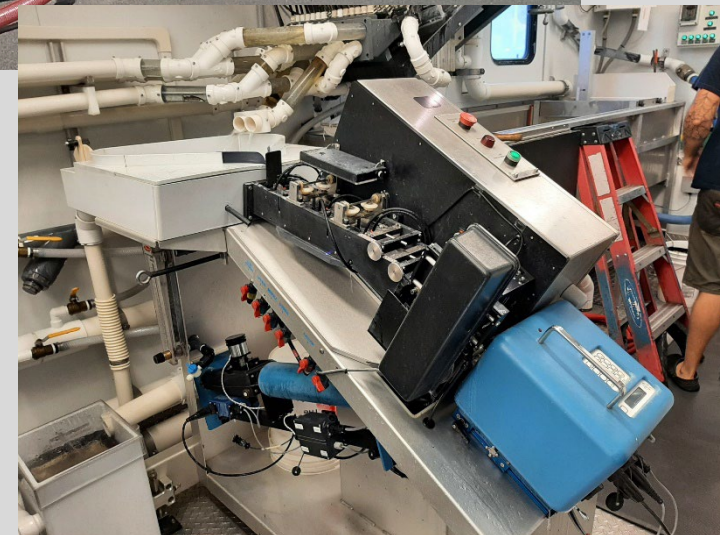
- Current grant is ≈\$290/year
- Staff time for 6 permanent and 1 temporary employee
- Pacific Salmon Commission Chinook Technical Committee participation
- Fish marking (1 month)
- Coded wire tags
- Aerial (drone) redd surveys



Mass Marking Anadromous Fish in Idaho

Project Successes

- Long-standing PSMFC program
 - 9 Idaho hatcheries
 - Annually, program fin-clips and/or CWT's.....
 - ≈10 million Chinook Salmon
 - ≈6 million steelhead
 - ≈1 million Sockeye Salmon
 - Additional ≈400,000 fish are PIT tagged



Ongoing Challenges

- Ongoing hiring shortages despite increased starting pay
 - Even a full-time position consisting of marking and running traps was unfilled
- Tight schedule with little room to adjust
- Lack of staff can lead to reduced marking



Questions?

