

# Salmon 2100 Project

Can wild salmon be sustained over the long term in the Pacific Northwest and California? To address this challenging question, 30 salmon scientists, policy analysts, and policy advocates have joined forces in an innovative project that takes as its spatial focus the wild salmon runs of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and southern British Columbia, and tracks their likely survival through 2100.

The Salmon 2100 Project will synthesize and apply a diverse array of current scientific, social, and economic information to the challenge of protecting and restoring salmon runs. Specific, practical policy options will be identified and described that, if adopted, would successfully sustain wild salmon. The Project was organized jointly by Oregon State University's Center for Water and Environmental Sustainability and EPA's research laboratory in Corvallis, Oregon. Project participants are writing chapters for a book to be published by the American Fisheries Society.

Restoring significant, sustainable runs of wild salmon to California and the Pacific Northwest is a daunting challenge. Since discovery of gold in California in 1848, salmon runs have dramatically declined across the region due to water pollution; loss of spawning, rearing, and riparian habitat; a history of over-fishing; dam construction and operation; water withdrawal for irrigation and industrial cooling; competition with hatchery-produced salmon; competition with various non-indigenous fish species; predation by marine mammals and birds; and climatic and oceanic shifts. Many experts question whether current salmon recovery efforts, as earnest, expensive, and socially disruptive as they currently are, are likely to sustain significant wild salmon runs through 2100. Sustainability remains elusive, and it appears that other recovery strategies must be adopted if wild salmon are to survive in significant numbers through the century.

In addition to the book, Project results will be disseminated to scientists, natural resource managers, policy makers, policy advocates, and others as part of several professional conferences.

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