

117TH CONGRESS

End-of-Session Review

Federal actions for Puget Sound recovery in the National Defense Authorization Act and omnibus appropriations package

Puget Sound Recovery Governance and Funding

- ▶ Creates a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office at Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), putting national focus on Puget Sound recovery at the same level as other nationally significant water bodies, such as the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes.
 - » Creates an office through which the federal government may direct future appropriations.
 - » Coordinates, aligns, and tracks Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) activities with the Action Agenda, Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.
 - » Serves as a connection with Canadian government for Salish Sea restoration and protection.
- ▶ Codifies the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, a framework to align the resources and knowledge of federal agencies – in coordination with both state and tribal partners – with a common mission to uphold tribal treaty rights and restore and protect Puget Sound.
- ▶ Sends **\$54 million annually** for the EPA's Puget Sound Geographic Program, a \$19 million increase over the previous fiscal year and nearly double the amount from three years ago, to fund projects related to the Puget Sound Action Agenda. These projects improve water quality, restore habitat for salmon and other species, and protect shorelines.
- ▶ Directs at least **\$850,000 annually** to the Puget Sound National Estuary Program, a \$100,000 increase over the previous fiscal year.
- ▶ Provides **\$2.5 million** for competitive grants for National Estuary Programs, a \$500,000 increase over the previous fiscal year
- ▶ Provides **\$3 million** for the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative.

Investing in salmon recovery

- ▶ Directs **\$72 million** to NMFS to conduct science and management for protected Pacific Salmon species, a \$5 million increase over the previous fiscal year. At least \$6 million must be used to address the backlog of Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans.
- ▶ Directs **\$65 million** to NMFS to capitalize the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (same level from the previous year) to help prevent extinction of listed salmonid species.

- ▶ Directs **\$41 million** for NMFS to conduct Pacific Salmon Treaty activities, a \$1.5 million increase over the previous fiscal year. Treaty activities include protecting and expanding spawning habitat, increasing hatchery production, and carrying out conservation efforts to prevent overfishing and maximize production.

Expanding and accelerating Fisheries Resource Disaster Relief

- ▶ Makes it easier to declare fisheries disasters and send out disaster relief funds and expands the uses of that funding to include hatcheries and habitat restoration.
- ▶ Directs **\$300 million** to NMFS to provide Fisheries Disaster Assistance (keeps the level established in the CARES Act) to support fishing families affected by cancelled crab and salmon harvest, including the 2019 Puget Sound salmon fishery.

Protecting Southern Resident orcas

- ▶ Creates a "Whale Desk," manned by the Coast Guard in Puget Sound, to warn ships when whales are present. The Whale Desk will combine data streams on whale locations and sends that information – along with information about seasonal no-go zones and speed limits – to vessels so they can take proper action.
- ▶ Creates a new grant program to fund efforts that reduce threats to marine mammals from vessel traffic.
- ▶ Prioritizes support for projects that deal with threats to marine mammals listed under the Endangered Species Act, such as the Southern Resident orcas.
- ▶ Directs the Maritime Administration to study technology and best management practices for reducing underwater noise from vessels.
- ▶ Creates a new grant program to study basic levels and trends in the underwater soundscape to protect marine life.
- ▶ Directs **\$2.25 million** to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to support the recovery of the Southern Resident orcas, a \$250,000 increase over the previous fiscal year.

Investigating toxic tire-wear particles

- ▶ Directs federal agencies to analyze the science and management recommendations related to tire related chemicals (like 6PPD-Quinone) and their effects on Pacific salmon at ports.
- ▶ Includes **\$1 million** for the Center for Urban Waters in Tacoma to continue work on protecting salmon from toxic chemicals like 6PPD-Quinone.

Providing fish passage for the Howard Hanson Dam

- ▶ **\$878 million** (including money already allocated) for the construction of downstream fish passage at the Howard Hanson Dam, opening at least 100 miles of prime salmon and steelhead habitat.

Restoring the Duckabush Estuary

- ▶ Requires the Army Corps to consider the costs of highway removal and replacement for the Duckabush Estuary restoration project as eligible for cost sharing with the state, potentially reducing the state’s funding obligations.
- ▶ Includes **\$6 million** for the Army Corps to do initial work on the project, including culvert replacement, creosote piling removal, and other habitat landscape restoration measures.

Restoring the Green/Duwamish Watershed

- ▶ Directs **\$2 million** to the Army Corps to help implement the Green/Duwamish River Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP). This project includes 20 restoration projects spanning the tidal estuaries to the spawning and wildlife habitat areas in the upper basin.

Improving water flows in the Dungeness River

- ▶ Sends **\$2.72 million** to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help advance the Dungeness Flow Restoration & Aquifer Recharge Off-channel Reservoir Project, which will ensure enough water flows in the Dungeness River for listed salmon and steelhead species.

Analyzing issues at the Ballard Locks

- ▶ Directs the Army Corps to study possible changes to the Ballard Locks, including fish ladder improvements and efforts to fix high water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels.

Providing Clean Water

- ▶ Invests **\$1.6 billion** in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, including for clean water-related “Community Project Funding” such as:
 - » **\$1.02 million** from EPA to Mountains to Sound Greenway for in-stream restoration and large woody material installations along a stretch of Issaquah Creek in Lake Sammamish State Park.

- » **\$1.5 million** from EPA to the Town of Steilacoom to support uncovering and restoring Garrison Springs Creek.
- » **\$2 million** from EPA to the City of Oak Harbor to support a program that corrects excess water flow, allowing the city to repair leaky mainlines and avoid sewage overflows into Puget Sound.
- » **\$3 million** from EPA to Jefferson County to support construction of the Port Hadlock Sewer Project.

Reducing permit backlogs

- ▶ Directs **\$2 million** to NMFS (in collaboration with the Army Corps) to address a backlog of consultation requests for permits for in-water construction and to increase outreach and communication efforts.

Valuing the contributions of the “Blue Economy”

- ▶ Directs federal agencies to start a program that gauges and tracks the economic value of marine waters. This will include the values of Puget Sound priorities such as living resources; tourism; recreation; subsistence, commercial, recreational, and charter fishing; and shellfish farming.

Aiding efforts to address aquatic nuisance species

- ▶ Gives technical aid and advice to state and tribal agencies that inspect and decontaminate recreational vessels to manage and control aquatic invasive species.

Enhancing conservation on military bases

- ▶ Expands conservation programs on military bases to include natural and nature-based features to promote resilience. Makes invasive species management programs permanent.

Supporting Marine Science and Career Development

- ▶ Invests **\$80 million** for the National Sea Grant College Program, a \$4 million increase over the previous fiscal year.

Supporting the National Wildlife Refuge System

- ▶ Directs **\$260.5 million** to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for wildlife and habitat management actions at National Wildlife Refuges, an \$11 million increase over the previous fiscal year.

