

# COASTAL CONNECTIONS



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A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION FOCUSED ON TOOLS FOR COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGERS

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## COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROFILE



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**Hometown:** West Springfield, Massachusetts

**Education:** Bachelor's in environmental science, University of Massachusetts; master's in marine environmental science, SUNY Stony Brook; Ph.D. in marine estuarine environmental science, University of Maryland

**Most fulfilling aspect of your job:** Working as a bridge between the academic community in Maryland and various stakeholders to bring science to problems in Chesapeake Bay.

**Most challenging aspect of your job:** Integrating the various aspects of our program (research, outreach, and education) in a way that builds on the strengths of each to have bigger collective impacts.

**One work-related accomplishment you're proud of:** Moving over the past year to develop and refine our program's focus to one

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## THIS ISSUE'S FOCUS

# SALMONID RECOVERY PLANNING

Salmonid populations in the U.S. have been in rapid decline for decades. Accordingly, dozens of governmental and private organizations have taken steps to protect them. The following information highlights some considerations for the recovery planning process and what state organizations might expect as they become involved in related projects.

### Salmonids in Decline

Salmonids—salmon and steelhead trout—are born in freshwater, migrate to the ocean for much of their adulthood, and then return to freshwater to spawn. This complex life cycle poses some challenges for the fish because they must be able to travel often long distances between the different environments and adapt to the varied habitats along the way. These transitions can easily be disrupted by natural conditions, such as drought or floods, and more commonly by man-made influences, such as dams that block migration, hatcheries practices, pollution, overfishing, and changes in land use and cover.

### Planning for Recovery

Once a species has been listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, state and federal agencies will develop a recovery plan. The National Marine Fisheries Service, or NOAA Fisheries, is the federal agency responsible for protecting marine and anadromous species. It takes the following steps to start creating a science-based plan:

1. Assess the current situation. Identify the current population, the reasons for decline, and a recovery goal (the desired population level).
2. Identify the management actions, research, monitoring, and evaluation needs for reaching that goal.
3. Assess current measures under way and identify others that could help meet the recovery goal.
4. Identify the costs and time needed to implement the plan as well as the agencies that should be involved in the process.
5. Serve as advisors to those groups putting the plan into practice.

There are several strategies for recovering an endangered salmonid population, such as better watershed management, new permitting policies, and habitat restoration. (See "Restoring the Habitat" on Page 3 for more restoration options.) The NOAA Fisheries plan can help guide coastal managers on which local or regional projects to fund and implement.

### Some State Approaches

Although salmonid populations on both U.S. coasts are dwindling, the West Coast has perhaps the most widespread problems. In Washington,

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that will help us make a better contribution with the resources we have.

**Things you do in your spare time:** Two little kids pretty much are my spare time.

**Family:** Wife, Ruth, and daughters, Nora (11) and Gillian (9)

**In your CD player right now:** Norah Jones, *Feels Like Home*

Growing up in the land-locked town of West Springfield, Massachusetts—over 100 miles from the closest beach—may not sound like the background of a Sea Grant director with a Ph.D. in marine science. But that's where Jon Kramer, director of Maryland Sea Grant, got his start.

Originally studying freshwater biology, Jon did an internship in Maryland with the Smithsonian, where he did some benthic work. That work was enough for him to make the move to coastal and ocean studies.

And so began Jon's notable career in estuarine work. After several research jobs, Jon came to Maryland Sea Grant to run its research efforts. Having received Sea Grant funding for some graduate work, Jon already had an understanding and "great admiration for what Sea Grant programs can do" before coming on board.

Currently, his program is focused primarily on restoration, fisheries issues, and oxygen dynamics in Chesapeake Bay, and on bringing more of the social sciences to bear on issues there. "That's really what Sea Grant does best in a lot of ways," Jon adds.

In his free time, Jon can be found with his wife and two daughters. He and his family live in Cheverly, Maryland.

salmon recovery projects have been a priority for years. Based on these experiences, the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife has created a helpful resource for organizing an approach to salmonid recovery. *An Outline for Salmon Recovery Plans* provides a general framework for developing recovery plans that can be implemented independently or as part of a federal plan. You can view this outline at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/recovery.htm>.

In 1997, the State of Oregon took proactive steps to recover its salmon populations by developing a plan to improve watershed conditions. Because there are no federal recovery plans in place in the state, it has more time and resources to devote to its own watershed plan. Jeff Weber, salmon plan coordinator with Oregon's Ocean-Coastal Management Program, says this is a good thing. "At the state level, we have the capability to work with local government, businesses, and individuals in a more hands-on way . . . to improve watershed conditions." And these improvements, the state anticipates, will in turn boost salmon populations. California, still in the earlier stages of recovery, is using these Washington and Oregon examples as models as it develops its recovery strategies.

On the other side of the country, the State of Maine is heavily involved in Atlantic salmon recovery. Maine's Atlantic salmon were listed as endangered in 2000, and a federal recovery plan is still in development. However, Maine has been and continues to work to restore salmon stocks. As part of an agreement among the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a technical advisory committee (TAC) made up of five federal and five state representatives helps decide how the state should approach its salmon-related issues.

"The TAC helps set priorities and how the issues can be addressed. Our agencies and partners then work through tasks the best they can," explains Joan Trial, senior fisheries biologist with the commission. These efforts include seasonal freshwater assessments of salmon, as well as stocking recommendations for the hatcheries. Although cooperation among state, local, and federal agencies can get sticky, "we really work hard at maintaining a cooperative and trusting relationship among agencies," says Trial. "The TAC gives us a place to work things out, and if there are disagreements we have a structured place to resolve them."

These are just a few examples of the work being done to restore salmonid populations in the U.S. Alaska and Connecticut, among others, also have programs and projects to address the issue. For information about recent work in California, see "Salmonid Recovery Planning Resource" below.

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## SALMONID RECOVERY PLANNING RESOURCE

Circuit Rider Productions, Inc., and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center have partnered to develop an Internet-based resource to help coastal managers design and implement recovery plans for coho salmon and steelhead trout in San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties in California. Located at [www3.csc.noaa.gov/salmonid/](http://www3.csc.noaa.gov/salmonid/), the *Salmonid Recovery Planning Information Resource* includes

- background information on the watersheds, state of the fisheries, and local land and resource uses
- geographic information system (GIS) data for download
- on-line interactive mapping
- examples of management applications
- resources on various aspects of recovery planning

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# FINDING FUNDING FOR RECOVERY PROJECTS

There are several special commissions and funding boards developed specifically to fund salmon recovery projects. Here are just a few.

## **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund**

**What:** Voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed, and listed species.

**Who:** State agencies that have a current cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior may apply directly. Other interested groups can work with that agency.

<http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/section6/>

## **National Wildlife Federation's Species Recovery Fund**

**What:** Projects that improve the conditions of species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

**Who:** Any organization, agency, tribe, university, or individual working to improve endangered species' conditions.

[www.nwf.org/wildlife/grants/](http://www.nwf.org/wildlife/grants/)

## **FishAmerica Foundation**

**What:** Projects to restore habitats important to anadromous fish.

**Who:** Nonprofit organizations and local and state governments.

[www.fishamerica.org](http://www.fishamerica.org)

## **Washington Salmon Recovery Grant Program\***

**What:** Projects that protect and preserve salmon in the State of Washington.

**Who:** Municipal subdivisions, tribal governments, private landowners, and state agencies.

[www.iac.wa.gov/srfb/salmon\\_recovery.htm](http://www.iac.wa.gov/srfb/salmon_recovery.htm)

## **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board\***

**What:** Projects in watershed restoration, enhancement, assessment, monitoring, education, and outreach; land and water acquisition; and technical assistance.

**Who:** Individuals and public or private organizations. Federal and state agencies can only be coapplicants.

[www.oweb.state.or.us/grants/](http://www.oweb.state.or.us/grants/)

## **California Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program\***

**What:** Coastal drainage and Central Valley drainage projects.

**Who:** Any public or private entity, including municipal agencies and Indian tribes.

[www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/fishgrant.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/fishgrant.html)

\* This program is part of the **Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund**, a federal program that provides grants to states and tribes to assist their salmon conservation and recovery efforts. Visit [www.nwr.noaa.gov/pcsrff/](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/pcsrff/) for more.

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# RESTORING THE HABITAT

Several factors can contribute to the decline of salmon populations in an area. Accordingly, there are many ways to help recover that population depending on the area's conditions. The following table lists some factors that threaten salmonids and the restoration measures planners can target to alleviate them.

<b>Limiting Factor</b>	<b>Site-Specific Restoration Approach</b>
Excess Sediment	Road repair, culvert repair, road decommissioning, revegetation (upslope or riparian)
Migration Barriers	Culvert modification, dam modification
Excessive Temperature	Riparian revegetation, re-establishment of springs or groundwater sources
Habitat Degradation	Installation of large wood, riparian, and upslope revegetation
Water Quantity and Quality	Dam or diversion modifications, irrigation system modifications, riparian and upslope revegetation, road repair, control of nonpoint source pollutants
Invasive Species	Removal of invasive plants and animals, restoration of native populations

*Coastal Connections* is a publication of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal Services Center, produced for the coastal resource management community. Each issue of this free bimonthly newsletter focuses on a tool, information resource, or methodology of interest to the nation's coastal resource managers.

Please send us your questions and suggestions for future editions. To subscribe or contribute to the newsletter, contact our editors at

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# NEWS AND NOTES



## State of Maine Reports on Aquaculture

The Maine Department of Marine Resources has published a final report from its aquaculture task force. The report gives a vision for aquaculture in the state and provides guiding principles. To read the report, visit [www.state.me.us/dmr/aquaculture/aqtaskforce/finalreport.htm](http://www.state.me.us/dmr/aquaculture/aqtaskforce/finalreport.htm).

## New Report Lists Challenges for Resource Agencies

The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation released a new report on the challenges facing federal and state natural resource agencies. The report discusses the aging workforce, shifting national priorities, budget demands, and other issues. View the report at [www.rmf.org](http://www.rmf.org).

## New Manual for Restoration Monitoring Published

A new restoration manual developed by NOAA outlines the steps for developing an effective restoration monitoring program. Download *Science-Based Restoration Monitoring of Coastal Habitats* at [http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/ecosystems/estuaries/restoration\\_monitoring.html](http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/ecosystems/estuaries/restoration_monitoring.html).

## EPA Offers Watershed Outreach Guide

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has produced a guide to help agencies plan and conduct effective watershed outreach campaigns. *Getting in Step: A Guide for Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns* is available as a 100-page book and a 35-minute companion video. Go to <http://epa.gov/nps/outreach.html> for more information.

## Transitions

**Charles Jones** is now the director of the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management. He was serving as acting director... **Vangie Lujan** is acting manager of Guam's coastal management program... **Patty Miller** has been named the Maui program coordinator of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary.

## Accolades

Six students in Mississippi won the state's Department of Marine Resources Excellence in Marine Science Award... The Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Naples, Florida, celebrated its 25th anniversary March 20 with the grand opening of a new Environmental Learning Center. Visit [www.rookerybay.org](http://www.rookerybay.org) for more.

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