

NORTH OLYMPIC SALMON COALITION

2005 Annual Report FY05: July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005

Mission Statement

North Olympic Salmon Coalition is a non-profit community based salmon recovery organization. We provide funding, guidance, technical assistance and ongoing support for salmon habitat restoration and enhancement.

RFEG Overview

As a non-profit community-based salmon recovery organization, North Olympic Salmon Coalition provides funding, guidance, technical assistance and ongoing support for salmon habitat restoration and enhancement. Our region includes the watersheds along the coast of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, extending from the Hood Canal Bridge west to Neah Bay. This year we formalized our working relationship with the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Jefferson and Clallam County Conservation Districts (JCCD and CCD), Point No Point Treaty Tribes, a variety of agencies, schools, community organizations, volunteers and landowners through our cooperative work on key areas of wildlife habitat areas in Morse, Snow-Salmon and Chimacum Creeks. NOSC and our partners have been active in establishing these conservation areas and are providing assessment funds, staff time and community outreach on WDFW owned parcels. NOSC and WDFW initiated a plan to create an interpretive center at Morse Creek in Port Angeles. Funding from ALEA Cooperative grants, WA Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Trout Unlimited /Embrace-a-Stream, augmented the RFEG funds. Technical support from WDFW, US Navy, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Jamestown and Port Gamble S' Klallam Tribes and JCCD are critical components to our project success. NOSC sponsored a National Civilian Community Corps crew – none of which had ever been west of the Rocky Mountains before!

We participate in Salmon Recovery Funding Board processes in two lead entities. In Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity we participate in technical review, citizen project ranking and strategy development. In North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity, NOSC's priority watersheds are Morse Creek in WRIA 18 and the variety of rural watersheds in WRIA 19. Chimacum, Salmon-Snow and nearshore areas are the priority action areas in the Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity, Regional Recovery Area for Hood Canal and Straits of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum.

Fish Enhancement

During the past year, NOSC volunteers continued their efforts to restore Summer Chum in three watersheds: Salmon, Chimacum and Jimmycomelately Creeks. The results continue to show success from the broodstock supplementation program. Salmon Creek and Chimacum Creek are no longer dependent on broodstock programs. NOSC volunteers will continue to monitor the population with WDFW assistance to ensure broodstocking does not need to occur in the future. WDFW otolith mark analysis is funded by the ALEA cooperative grant.

In-stream habitat projects

A key to maintaining self-sustaining summer chum and native coho and steelhead runs is to identify and improve habitat problems that have lead to poor natural spawning and rearing. Over the past 15 years NOSC and our partners have been successful in identifying and completing habitat improvements to increase natural spawning success as well as watershed and estuary rearing.

Pysht River Habitat Restoration NOSC finalized design and began implementation of a log jam construction project in order to provide LWD to an erosion prone reach of the Pysht river. The jams will improve hiding and resting habitat for coho and Chinook as well as bank stabilization for a nearby homeowner. NOSC received a Community Salmon Fund grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to

build the log jams. With volunteer help, the removal of 12 abandoned cars was completed as an essential part of site preparation.

Birkland Project—Naylor's Cr. (RM 0.5) October 2004 Naylor's Creek is a tributary to main stem Chimacum Creek. Reed canarygrass had taken over the channel and filled in an old in-stream pond, creating partial barrier to adult/juvenile coho passage. This project re-meandered 460 feet of creek channel and added LWD. A riparian buffer was planted during winter months of 2004-05. Project management was completed by the Jefferson Co. Conservation District, with funding from NOSC.

Pataansuu Rearing Pond NOSC staff and volunteers worked with excavation contractors to repair and subsequently replace a worn out weir at the outlet of a constructed coho rearing pond. During the winter of 2003, the weir had failed and was allowing water to run under and around it. No water passed over the weir, prohibiting coho outmigrants from leaving the pond, nor allowing adult passage to the spawning reaches above the pond. A temporary fix constructed by volunteers allowed enough flow over the weir in the spring for outmigrants to leave. Once juveniles were out of the system, the weir was replaced with a new log structure. Adult coho successfully passed the weir in the fall of 2004.

Riparian plantings

Volunteers from Jefferson Land Trust, 4-H, WSU, Water/BeachWatchers, Greywolf Ranch, Port Angeles Rotary, and Trout Unlimited are valuable partners on these projects. The many volunteer hours logged to East Fork and main stem of Chimacum Creek, Salmon Creek, and in urban Port Angeles at Valley Creek for habitat revegetation, are directly connected to the Restoration Steward's efforts at outreach, site preparation and volunteer training. NOSC also maintains 2 plant nurseries on donated farmland and Chimacum School. NOSC is maintaining over 16 acres of riparian plantings at this time to reduce weed competition and encourage growth of the young trees.

Salmon Creek The project area riparian zone was augmented this year with planting of the new floodplain riparian zone. This 25' wide area gained 320 plants through work completed by a NCCC crew, a WSU 4-H Afterschool program, Port Townsend High School "Project Justice" students, and community volunteers.

East Fork of Chimacum Creek Continued planting and maintenance of over 5,000 trees and shrubs on 7 acres of riparian area (with volunteer labor). Approximately 580 new plants were planted over the year at several stream restoration project sites. Maintenance at these planting sites included tree watering and management of reed canary grass through mowing. The riparian area includes 2 conservation easements held by the Jefferson Land Trust.

Chimacum Creek (mainstem) Planting and maintenance continued on mainstem Chimacum Creek as well. 1,960 new plants were added to over 5 acres of riparian zone at several project sites. Planting, tree watering and reed canary grass mowing were completed at these sites with help from Americorps, NCCC, Greywolf Ranch members, and community volunteers.

East Twin River 190 riparian trees/shrubs were planted on the East Twin River by a NOSC sponsored NCCC crew, supplementing a LWD project coordinated by the Elwha tribe.

Monitoring

Macroinvertebrate study NOSC completed the 3rd year of the baseline macroinvertebrate monitoring program established in 2002 on Salmon and Chimacum Creeks to gauge changes in biological integrity pre and post summer chum recovery and habitat restoration. Analysis of stream insect populations at each restoration site is compared to control sites on each stream. This is the first long term study of macroinvertebrates in East Jefferson County streams using the B-IBI index. The project has been dependent on volunteers from the community, Americorps and Chimacum School 6th Grade Science Classes for its early accomplishments. The project was supported by the WDFW Volunteer- Cooperative ALEA grant and targets ESA listed summer chum spawning habitat.

Water Quality Monitoring For the 4th year, NOSC funded an Americorps intern to work with JCCD's water quality monitoring program in Chimacum, Salmon, Snow and other watersheds. This work adds to the continuous 16 year data set documenting watershed conditions throughout East Jefferson County.

Vegetation Monitoring Continued in Chimacum Creek and this year focused on invasive species spread. The area includes over 100 acres of contiguous protected nearshore, estuary and 1.0 miles of summer chum spawning habitat. European bittersweet and Spartina, an inter-tidal exotic plant, were identified during this monitoring effort.

Education and Outreach

NOSC continued participation in a variety of annual festivals and events in the region including the North Olympic Land Trust Streamfest, Jefferson Land Trust's Tree Festival, Port Townsend's Earthday Everyday Festival, the Port Townsend Farmers Market and Alternative Christmas Fair. NOSC continued involvement with 4-H after school programs and summer camps, Girl Scout Service Days, and Chimacum and Port Townsend school science classes. NOSC and Trout Unlimited co-sponsored a Salmon Day event at Grant Street Elementary school in Port Townsend. With WSU, Jefferson County Marine Resource Committee and Puget Sound Action Team, NOSC co-sponsored Discovery Bay Day. NOSC also provided service learning and training for Americorps NCCC who worked with NOSC on our restoration and monitoring projects. As in previous years, NOSC provided volunteer education and training for volunteers aiding in our annual B-IBI macroinvertebrate stream surveys and summer chum spawning surveys. We continued our partnership with Wild Olympic Salmon coordinating the travels of FIN, the Giant Salmon and distribution of Tracking the Dragon, a watershed game.

NOSC began a long term partnership with WDFW, Peninsula College and Surfriders to develop an education and public interpretive site at the WDFW Morse Creek wildlife area associated with an existing log building at a key site on Hwy 101 in Port Angeles. The initial work was funded by WDFW ALEA funds and a funding grant from the Jefferson Clallam RC&D.

Community Outreach

NOSC representatives made presentations to the Jefferson County Marine Resource Committee, and to various nearshore community organizations such as Puget Sound Anglers, Discovery Baywatchers, WSU Cooperative Extension Waterwatchers Class and participated in Watershed planning in WRIA 17, plus gave presentations at Jefferson County Bounty of the Sea celebration, and North Olympic Land Trust's StreamFest. NOSC provided technical expertise to the City of Port Townsend for its Shoreline Master Plan Advisory Group.

Assessment and Research

Salt Creek Assessment NOSC partnered with the Lower Elwha K'lallam Tribe (LEKT) assessment team in the Salt Creek Watershed, with SRFB funds. LEKT provided a stream crew and donated the time of a senior biologist and GIS support for this effort. The final report issued November 2004 contains the watershed assessment identifying projects for local prioritization. NOSC is working with the Clallam Conservation District CREP planner, Streamkeepers, and North Olympic Land Trust to identify conservation easements and foster increased community stewardship in the rural watershed near Joyce.

Irondale Beach Baseline In 2005 NOSC staff and volunteers continued data acquisition for the WDFW pre-project Baseline Assessment. The project used the Puget Sound Beach Seine Protocol to determine seasonal fish use and sampled the beach for forage fish spawn. Notable results are the confirmation of surf smelt spawning at the site proposed for intertidal fill removal in 2004-05. The project was postponed due to delay in cultural resource assessment.

Forage Fish Assessment NOSC staff and volunteers also continued and completed the East Jefferson County Forage Fish Assessment with SRFB support. Since 2002, 2,115 samples have been taken and analyzed for

spawn. 61 new sites for surf smelt have been identified. 5 new sites for summer spawning surf smelt have been located. 38 new sites for sand lance have been identified. This documentation creates protection for approximately 17 miles of beach because Washington State laws include provisions for “no net loss” of forage fish spawning grounds. All known positive sample site locations have been delivered to WDFW for inclusion in their PHS database. NOSC sampled in Jefferson County, Kitsap County and North Mason County. NOSC volunteers and WDFW donated significant skiff time to make sampling of multiple beaches an easier task throughout the winter and spring. The final report has been generated and submitted to SRFB, WDFW, project partners, involved counties and cities. The report will be available as a PDF on NOSC’s website.

Fish monitoring NOSC volunteers assisted Lower Elwha K’lallam Tribal staff in the installation of smolt traps on Deep Creek and West Twin Rivers. Spawning surveys for summer chum and coho took place with volunteers in the Chimacum watershed in cooperation with Wild Olympic Salmon, WDFW and the Point No Point Treaty Council. NOSC volunteers continued to provide extensive volunteer labor support for the WDFW Snow Creek Coho Recovery Program, a research based broodstock and RSI effort using multiple rearing and release strategies in the Discovery Bay watershed. NOSC volunteers attended adult traps at JimmyComeLately and Salmon Creeks for Summer Chum returns.

Morse Creek Feasibility Study Partnering with Habor Consulting Engineers, NOSC is using SRFB grant to create a hydraulic model of the lower reach in order to create a restoration design plan that will work for the streamside landowners as well as improve fish habitat on the WDFW wildlife area.

Snow Salmon Watershed Restoration Continuing our involvement in the Chumsortium, NOSC works with the Technical Advisory Group, celebrated as WDFW partner organization of the year. The TAG is creating a wildlife area management plan to guide WDFW in future actions on the site. NOSC received a SRFB grant to restore estuary habitat and match a CREP riparian buffer project.

Table of project expenditures

REGION 7 - NORTH OLYMPIC SALMON COALITION**Regional Fisheries Enhancement Program / Annual Report for July 1, 2004- June 30, 2005****PROJECT EXPENDITURES: JULY 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2005**

PROJECT	RFEG Funds	Vol Hours	Vol Dollars	Other Funds	Total Spent
Project Director	\$ 41,498.00	115	\$ 1,437.50		\$ 42,935.50
Project Coordinator	\$ 52,176.00	1293	\$ 16,162.50		\$ 68,338.50
Macroinvertebrate Study		926.5	\$ 4581.25	\$ 6,195.00	\$ 17776.25
Chimacum Spawning Surveys		375.5	\$ 4,468.75		\$ 4,468.75
Snow Creek Coho Recovery		314.5	\$ 3,931.25		\$ 3,931.25
Smolt Trap: Deep Creek, Ease, West Twin Rivers		8	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
West Fork Chimacum		427.5	\$ 5,343.75		\$ 5,343.75
East Fork Chimacum		186	\$ 2,325.00	\$ 25,774.00	\$ 28,099.00
Olympic Discovery Nature Center		145.5	\$ 1,818.75	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 20,818.75
Habitat Restoration	\$ 15,554.00	(coord)		3500	\$ 15,554.00
Summer Chum Hatcheries		1350.5	\$ 16,881.25	\$ 7,904.00	\$ 24,785.25
Salmon Snow Watershed Restoration Technical advisory Group		288	\$ 10,080.00	\$ 5,366.00	\$ 15,446.00
Morse Creek Feasibility Study		24	\$ 300.00	\$ 13,077.00	\$ 13077.00
Forage Fish		239	\$ 3585	\$ 46,361.00	\$ 49946
Irondale Beach Assessment		98.5	\$ 1,231.25	\$ 2823.92	\$ 1,231.25
Chimacum Estuary		114.5	\$ 1,431.25	\$ 3,625.00	\$ 5,056.25
Salt Creek Habitat Assessment		8	\$ 100.00	\$ 14,076.00	\$ 14,176.00
Pysht River Restoration	\$ 10,580.00	127	\$ 30,262.75	\$ 90,409.00	\$ 131,251.75
Office Operations	\$ 13,860.00		\$ 4,350.00		\$ 18,210.00
TOTAL	\$ 133,668.00	6028	\$ 114,736.25	\$ 240,934.84	\$ 489,339.00

Habitat Restoration volunteer hours are included in specific restoration sites listed above or with Project Coordinator hours.

Who we are

NORTH OLYMPIC SALMON COALITION

OFFICERS 2004

BOARD CHAIR: Tom Ammeter - Chimacum School staff, Snohomish Tribal Council
 VICE CHAIR: Andy Driscoll - Organic farmer, marine ecologist
 SECRETARY: Dick Schneider - Shoreline owner, retired biologist
 TREASURER: Lige Christian - Organic farmer, Jefferson County Conservation District Commissioner

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004

Harry Bell - Silviculturist, Green Crow Partnership
 Richard Wojt - Teacher, county commissioner, retired
 Ray Lowrie - Shoreline landowner, commercial fisherman, school teacher, retired
 Marty Peckman - Owner coho spawning habitat, business owner
 Doug Morrill - Biologist, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
 Josey Paul - Streamside landowner, journalist, retired
 Terry O'Brien - Sport fisherman
 Gwen Bridge - Makah Tribal Biologist

STAFF MEMBERS 2004:

Paula Mackrow	Executive Director
Kevin Long	Project Coordinator
Audrey Miles Cherney	Restoration Steward
Alisa Meany	Volunteer Coordinator

CONTACT US:

North Olympic Salmon Coalition
 P.O. Box 699 Port Townsend WA 98368
 Ph. 360 379-8051
 e-mail: nosc@jefferson.wsu.edu www.nosc.org



Table of Accomplishments by WRIA

Categories:

- a) Number of barriers removed and miles of fish habitat opened up:
2 barriers were removed on coho tributaries to the main stem Chimacum Creek at Birkland and Putanssu properties. WRIA 17
- b) Riparian Planting:
NOSC planted, monitored and maintained over 7,200 feet of streambank revegetation. The planting area width averaged about 75 feet wide in Chimacum Creek, WRIA 17
An 800 foot-long section was re-planted in Valley Creek in Port Angeles, WRIA 18
- c) Feet/miles of fencing:
None
- d) Number of screening projects- **None**
- e) Number of carcasses placed for nutrient enhancement:
8,600 WRIA 18