



Endangered Species Act Alert 2000-5

**RE: National Marine Fisheries Service Appoints West Coast's First
Science Review Panel and Technical Recovery Team for Endangered
Salmon**

DATE: May 8, 2000

In a move to guide and measure salmon recovery efforts, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) appointed a Science Review Panel and a Technical Recovery Team, which will be one of nine such teams focusing on specific geographic regions. These are the first salmon recovery panels/teams to be appointed on the West Coast.

Science Review Panel

This team of six independent scientists is responsible for guiding technical work during the next few years for the recovery of more than two dozen populations of West Coast salmon and steelhead that are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This group will oversee the work of nine technical recovery teams, one of which has already been named (see below).

Recovery plans are required when a species is listed under the ESA. The plans set standards for recovery and outline the steps necessary to improve a protected population to the point that it can be removed from the endangered list. Today, 26 populations of salmon and steelhead are listed in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California.

The panel's tasks include:

- Reviewing elements of the recovery planning process that is being developed by NMFS
- Ensuring soundness of the science that will form the basis for all recovery efforts
- Reviewing work of the technical recovery teams

The members of the Science Review Panel will serve three-year terms. Here is a list of the members:

- Robert Paine, Chairman—marine community ecologist from the University of Washington
- Ted Case—evolutionary biologist from the University of California, San Diego

- Fran James—conservation biologist from Florida State University
- Russ Lande—evolutionary biologist and population geneticist from the University of California, San Diego
- Si Levin—theoretical and mathematical ecologist from Princeton University
- William Murdoch—theoretical and experimental population ecologist from the University of California, Santa Barbara

Technical Recovery Team

The first of at least nine Technical Recovery Teams was recently appointed. This particular team is responsible for setting biological standards for measuring recovery efforts for endangered Puget Sound chinook, chum and sockeye salmon. Each technical recovery team will be responsible for setting its own biologically-based recovery goals for its respective geographic region. These teams will serve as science advisors during the entire recovery planning phase, which is expected to last several years.

Technical Recovery Team members for the Puget Sound are:

- Ken Currens—fishery geneticist with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Jim Doyle—forest fish biologist with the U.S. Forest Service
- Robert Fuerstenberg—senior ecologist with the King County Department of Natural Resources
- William Graeber—natural resource scientist with the Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Kit Rawson—senior fishery management biologist with the Tulalip tribe
- Mary Ruckleshaus—fisheries research biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service
- Norma Jean Sands—fisheries research biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service
- James Scott—chief fish scientist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

For more information about salmon recovery efforts, go to the Northwest Fisheries Science Center's web site at <http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov>

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Parametrix project managers are encouraged to share this information with clients who may be interested in, or affected by, ESA listings and issues. Additional questions should be addressed to Megan Callahan Grant (mcallahan@parametrix.com), ESA Program Policy Analyst, who can direct them to the appropriate specialist.