



## **Endangered Species Act Alert 2000-7**

**RE: Washington's Salmon Strategy**  
**DATE: June 23, 2000**

Did you know that Washington has a strategy for recovering salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act? It's called "Extinction is Not an Option", and lately it's getting poor reviews.

Earlier this year, Governor Gary Locke appointed five scientists to an independent panel charged with reviewing the plan. The panel's critique, completed in May, calls the strategy "disjointed", and points out a lack of clear, measurable and attainable objectives that will ensure salmon survival.<sup>1</sup> The science panel found that the plan contains a collection of actions that are not strongly linked by a strategy, and that it probably will not prevent extinction of struggling fish populations.

Only one aspect of Washington's plan, the "Forests and Fish Report" which addresses forest management practices, found its way into the final 4(d) rules issued by NMFS earlier this week. The report's inclusion in the 4(d) rules means that timber firms that follow the report's guidelines will be exempt from liability for take of listed species. The science panel, however, criticized the Forests and Fish Report, saying it lacked scientific review and suggesting that its guidelines may not adequately protect fish habitat from logging on unstable slopes.

The members of the independent science panel are:

Kenneth Currens, Geneticist, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission  
Hiram Li, Professor, Oregon State University  
John McIntyre, Biologist (independent)  
David Montgomery, Professor, University of Washington  
Dudley Reiser, Fisheries Consultant

### **Help Spread the Word**

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](mailto:mcallahan@parametrix.com)), ESA Program Policy Analyst, who can direct them to the appropriate specialist.

---

<sup>1</sup> "State's Salmon Strategy Panned". Susan Gordon, The News Tribune. June 20, 2000.