



2015–2016 Annual Report

Photos: Charles Espey

NORTH OLYMPIC



SALMON
COALITION

MISSION

The mission of the North Olympic Salmon Coalition is to promote robust wild salmon stocks for families, fishers, and local economies by furthering habitat restoration and education on the North Olympic Peninsula.



Photo: Charles Espey

HISTORY & PURPOSE

In 1990, the Washington State Legislature created the **Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFE)** program to involve local communities, citizen volunteers and landowners in the state's efforts to recover salmon to harvestable levels for recreational and commercial fishers. The North Olympic Salmon Coalition represents RFE Region 7 which extends from the Hood Canal Bridge north and west along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. We utilize local volunteer, community and business support to tackle salmon recovery in the watersheds of our region, provide place-based education programs and promote community stewardship. Restored habitats produce healthy salmon runs which build healthy watersheds, healthy forests and bring jobs and livelihood to our community.




205B West Patison Street
Port Hadlock, WA 98339

Phone: 360.379.8051

Email: info@nosc.org

www.nosc.org

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We have so much to be grateful for here on the north Olympic Peninsula. This place we were born to, or have chosen to call home, is one of the most beautiful places on earth. The mountains and oceans, forests and streams, are part of our daily experience. They inspire us, they feed us, provide for endless recreational experiences with friends and family, and they are home to our iconic Pacific salmon. For you, this place, and the salmon, we work tirelessly to **Educate, Restore and Celebrate**.

The board of directors here at the North Olympic Salmon Coalition chose to modify our mission statement this year. It is shorter and more to the point. It expresses our work, *to promote wild salmon stocks* to the north Olympic Peninsula. More important to me, it expresses why we do our work: *for families, fishers and local economies*. Even a family that doesn't necessarily relate directly to fish, benefits from our work. Our projects lead to the protection of land with our partners, and to the restoration of ecosystems big and small. The larger the project, the more likely it is to contribute to a community's resiliency in the face of climate change. A new bridge that allows for fish passage must also be built to withstand bigger floods, higher tides and earthquakes - things the prior infrastructure may not have provided. A restored floodplain or estuary gives the ecosystem the opportunity to respond to changes in water levels, storm surges and sediment migration along the nearshore. If you do like to fish, or depend on fish for your livelihood, you benefit from our projects too. As we strive to implement projects that delist endangered salmon, we also benefit habitat used by sport and commercial species. And the sooner we de-list endangered species, the more fishing opportunities there could be. Our

projects, especially the landscape scale projects like those in Discovery Bay, bring jobs and local tax dollars to our communities. Last summer, our projects brought over \$29,000 in tax revenue to Jefferson and Clallam counties and over \$75,000 to the state. Those tax dollars go to infrastructure and programs that benefit us and our neighbors. More difficult to quantify is our impact on tourism and the benefits each of you enjoy by visiting natural areas or even just knowing ecosystems are being healed. There are hundreds of acres in Jefferson and Clallam Counties that were purchased by the state and local land trusts for salmon habitat restoration. Now most of these sites are open for all to enjoy. You can go birding, clamming, walking and hiking in places once inaccessible and laden with aging and abandoned infrastructure.

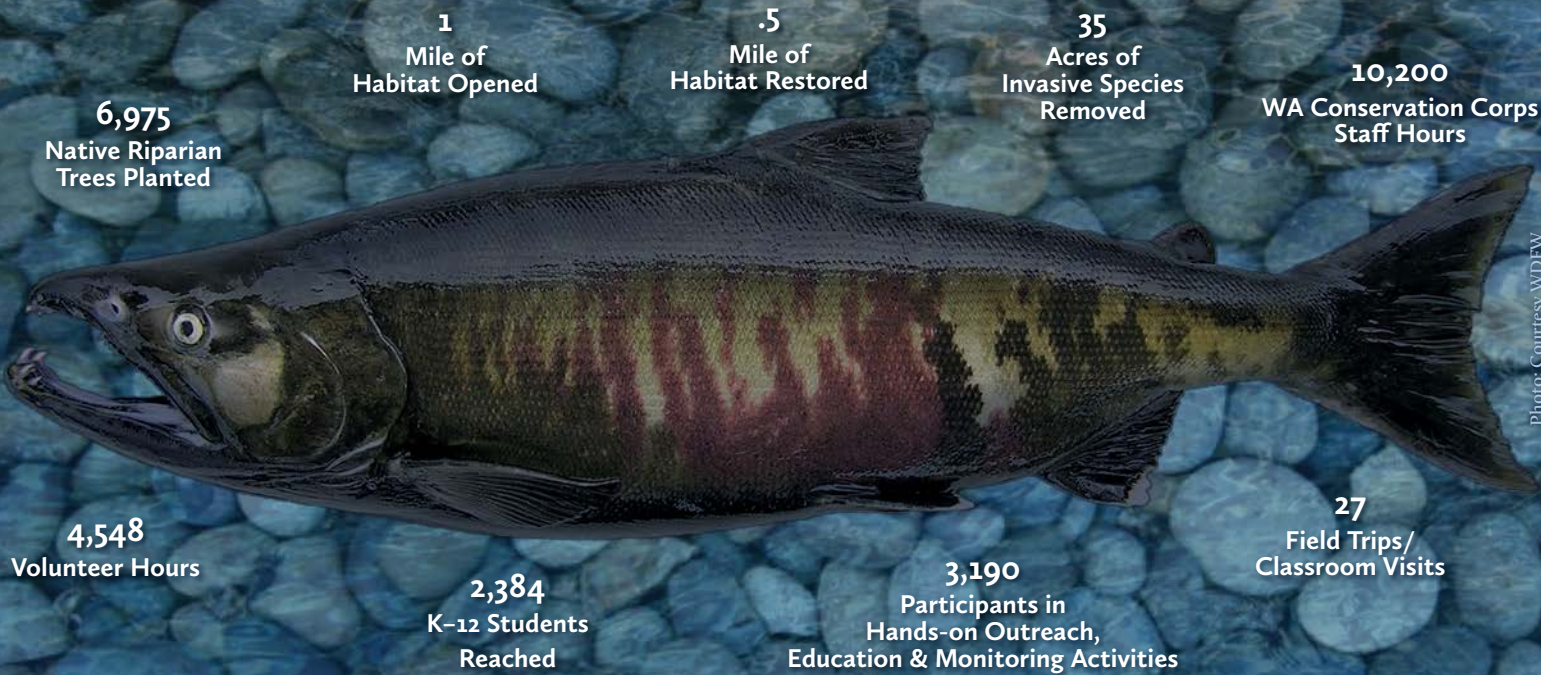
We have a history here at the Salmon Coalition of keeping our heads down and forging ahead on our work. We don't often pause to share the depth and breadth of what we do. Looking ahead to the coming year, you'll find more opportunities to join us at small gatherings where we will share our stories, successes and challenges. We will give you a glimpse into what it takes to **restore** habitat, **educate** our children, **celebrate** stewardship, and be scientists. When you see an invitation for a member tour, a house party, or tea with me and a board member, I urge you to accept. Come and learn, be inspired and get involved. Join us, because together we will make a real difference now and into the future.



Rebecca Benjamin
Executive Director

Photo: NOSC Staff

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



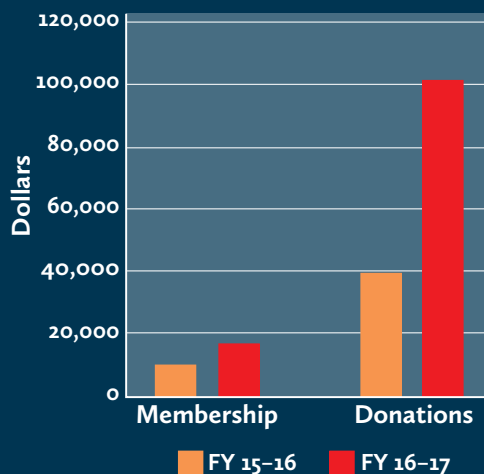
FINANCIALS

THE MISSING PIECE OF PIE

This year, our unrestricted state funds were cut by 47%. Thankfully, due to our fiscally responsible leadership team, we have taken measures to prevent our work from coming to an immediate halt while we effectively fundraise. As you can see, 96% of our income directly supports our restoration projects. There is a growing need for private dollars to maintain our volunteer and education programs and fund the planning stages of our large-scale restoration and riparian planting projects. We are very grateful for our donors who are able to demonstrate their belief in the value of our work with financial contributions. Our work begins with your kindhearted support.

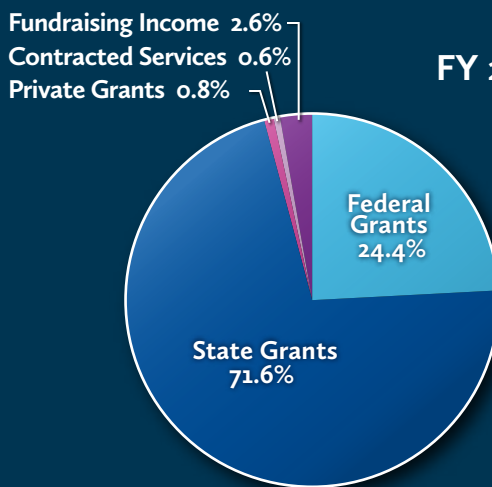
Funding cuts to the RFEG Program in the spring of 2015 impact future fiscal years. We are working to fill this gap locally to ensure continuation of our beloved coho and chum surveys, volunteer plantings, small landowner projects and development of future large scale habitat restoration projects.

Increased Giving Goals for 2016-2017



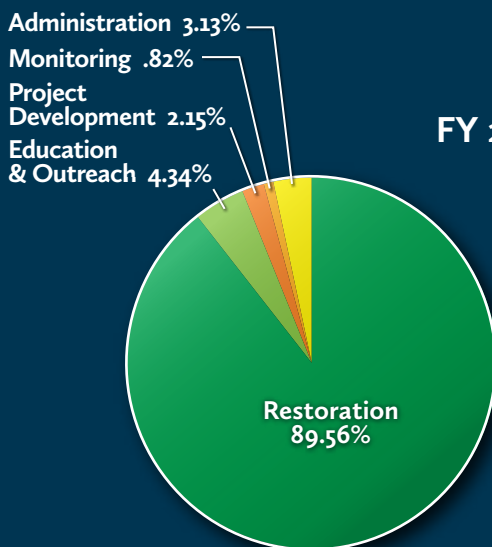
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FY 2015-2016 Income



| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| State Grants | \$1,344,073 |
| Federal Grants | \$458,018 |
| Fundraising Income | \$48,800 |
| Private Grants | \$15,000 |
| Contracted Services | \$11,500 |
| Total | \$1,877,391 |

FY 2015-2016 Expenses



| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Restoration | \$1,694,941 |
| Education & Outreach | \$82,118 |
| Project Development | \$40,728 |
| Monitoring | \$15,516 |
| Administration | \$59,154 |
| Total | \$1,892,457 |

MATRIOTTI CREEK PROJECT

In October 2015, the Salmon Coalition completed construction of a 60-foot steel bridge over Matriotti Creek. The project replaced an undersized and failing culvert, ensured access for local residents and opened fish access to spawning and rearing habitat for Dungeness River coho, steelhead and cutthroat trout.



Perched culvert, a barrier to fish migration, on Matriotti creek.



Crane positions bridge spans.



Steel bridge spans in place, ground re-contoured, and fish passage channel restored.



Photos: NOSC Staff

Community ribbon-cutting ceremony

3 CRABS NEARSHORE & ESTUARINE RESTORATION

The 3 Crabs Nearshore Restoration construction began in June 2016. The project restores ecological function to over 80 acres of coastal wetlands, restores the lower 1/2 mile of Meadowbrook Creek, and removes infrastructure, fill and armoring at the site of the former 3 Crabs Restaurant. The project will restore and enhance rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and benefit waterfowl by improving access to varied habitat types.



▲ *The project will relocate Sequim-Dungeness Way away from the nearshore to allow for increased tidal connection within the estuarine wetlands.*

DAWLEY SHORELINE RESTORATION

The Dawley shoreline project began in June 2016 and was completed in September 2016. The project restored a 1,400 ft section of Sequim Bay shoreline owned by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

We removed armoring, bulkheads, fill, overwater structures, and over 200 tires! This project repaired habitat sustaining shoreline processes. The Dawley project removed approximately 5% of the bulkheading from the Sequim Bay shoreline.



◀ *This concrete wall has been removed and the shoreline was contoured to mimic adjacent beaches.*



► *The property is only a 1/2 mile from Jimmycomelately Creek, and will provide shallow migratory passage for Juvenile ESA-listed Hood Canal Summer Chum.*

INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL & RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION

The Salmon Coalition's Washington Conservation Corps crew removed over 27 acres of butterfly bush during the summer of 2015 and planted, seeded and staked 32

acres of Dungeness watershed riparian habitat. The Salmon Coalition has been working with over 30 landowners to restore floodplain forest and improve salmon habitat. **This past year saw a huge success for the project, with butterfly bush being banned for sale in Washington State nurseries!**



◀ *Butterfly bush has invaded large areas of floodplain habitat on the Dungeness River.*

► *After the butterfly bush is removed, sites are re-vegetated with native plant species to help promote healthy habitat for pollinators and fish.*



KILISUT HARBOR PROJECT

The Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project design is progressing towards the goal of construction in 2017/2018. The project will reconnect a salt marsh linkage between southern Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay to restore self-sustaining ecosystem processes to approximately 2,300 acres of highly

productive juvenile salmon habitat in Kilisut Harbor. The project is anticipated to provide immense benefit to all populations of salmonids leaving Puget Sound and Hood Canal.

▼ Salt marsh linkage between Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay.



▲ Undersized culvert pipes block fish movement and restrict water flow.



▲ Surf smelt (*Hypomesus pretiosus*). An important forage fish species.

SNOW CREEK ESTUARY

The Snow Creek Estuary Restoration Project, completed in September 2015, removes impacts of an abandoned railroad grade and dredge spoils from this important habitat. It restores 22 acres of natural processes around Salmon and Snow Creek estuary and recreates 1.5 acres of salt marsh that was buried beneath the railroad grade. These changes benefit ESA-listed Hood Canal Summer Chum, coho salmon, birds, and marshlands.



Heavy equipment carves out a tidal channel.

CHIMACUM CREEK RESTORATION

In March 2016, the Salmon Coalition received funding from the National Estuaries Program. With these funds, the Salmon Coalition in partnership with many supportive, local organizations will develop a Chimacum Creek protection and restoration plan in the agricultural valleys of the watershed to address issues such as flooding and the presence of invasive species.



▲ The North Olympic Peninsula is truly a unique place, where so many partners can collaborate on a watershed-scale project that will benefit local habitat.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Our hands-on, experiential *Real Learning, Real Work* program requires students apply their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math skills to a real world problem. This kind of authentic experience allows student to grapple with the challenges of real world projects like salmon habitat restoration; to react, adapt, and adjust in the same ways that restoration professionals respond in the course of their work on a daily basis. The goal is to train students to become critical-thinking future leaders and stewards of our environment.



Students working at Salmon Creek restoration site.

Photos: NOSC Staff

“Students can’t help but be interested in the science work when you bring about a real life relevance to the work they’re doing. We’re educating the students about these ecological issues so that one day they will be contributing members of our community.”

- Jennifer Manning, Science Teacher, Port Townsend

YOUTH OUTREACH

FIN, our 25-foot-long, two ton female chum salmon sculpture, was brought to 27 schools and festivals throughout the Pacific Northwest this past year. Youth and adults can climb inside FIN to view a mural of a Pacific Northwest watershed, complete with over 100 different native plants and animals. She is an integral part of the Salmon Coalition family, helping us raise awareness and funds to support the organization. Contact us to rent FIN for your event!



◀ “FIN” meets the kids.

RIPARIAN RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS



‘A society grows great when men [and women] plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.’

- Greek proverb

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

We love the native plant nursery’s new home at Finnriver Orchard and Cidery. The nursery is full of vibrant, native plants that will be planted streamside over years to come. A beautiful potting bench built by Emily Bishop, 2015-16 WCC AmeriCorps IP, serves as workspace for our dedicated volunteers. The nursery is our volunteer hub where community members gather to care for our plants, pot new nursery stock, create native plant ID tags for visitors of the farm and learn a little about our wonderful native plant species.



Photo: NOSC Staff

MONITORING & SPAWNER SURVEY VOLUNTEERS



“Being able to observe chum salmon — who after years in the ocean find their way back into Chiumacum Creek to spawn — is a special and magical gift!”

- Luzi Pfenniger, volunteer



The North Olympic Salmon Coalition coordinated volunteer-staffed spawner surveys for summer chum and coho in the Chumacum watershed in cooperation with WDFW. Our volunteers assisted with adult and smolt traps at Jimmycomelately and Salmon Creeks and walked Chumacum Creek counting summer chum and collecting scales and tissue samples for DNA and age identification analysis.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) use data collected by Salmon Coalition volunteers to evaluate important parameters of the run that help guide salmon conservation for our local and state fisheries.

VOLUNTEERS

Samara Aguirre
John & Normandie Anderson
Victoria Anderson
Gabby Andrews
Sue Anthejust
Dimitri Antonelis-Lapp
Keith Apgal
Lisa Arballo
Angel Arreola
Reed Aubin
Michael Aubin
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Aki Avelino
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Mark Cooper
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Spring Courtright
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Christina Cunningham
Howard Cunningham
Kim Danner
Allen Davis
Don Davis
Gretha Davis
Michael & Laurel Dawson
Ron Deisher
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Caydon Demoss
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Kathleen Deslauriers
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Ryan D'Jay
Merce Dostale
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Colleen Ebken
Beth Ely
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Jean Erreca
Charles Espey
Kevi Eyer
Cale Fanucchi
Jonathan Feist
Mary Ferraris
Chuck Forster
Keri French
Paul Gallop
Donald Giedt
Terra Girard
Al Gonzalez
Jill Goodnight
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Philip Grinton

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Aidan Halpin
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Zak Haskins
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Scott Herning
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Kathy Iredale
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Emhee Kang
Joel Kawahara
Elizabeth Kemp
Natalie Khan
Morgan King
Dave Konaroff
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Samantha Thomas
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Malloree Weinheimer
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Sharon Yeh



Photos: Charles Espey

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*"Nature is not a place to visit.
 It is home."*

- Gary Snyder



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Jean Erreca, President
Terra Girard, Treasurer
Andy McGregor, Vice President
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Richard Wojt

"I give to North Olympic Salmon Coalition for the same reason I give to several other organizations. I identify and believe in their mission and it's a good feeling knowing I can help. I love this organization and plan to continue volunteering for a long time. I hope you will join me."

- Jean Erreca, Board President 2015-16

The best messengers for our work are the people who feel passionate about it. Our Board of Directors are these people. They are a diverse group of individuals with a variety of skill-sets and talents. However, their common link is their dedication to support habitat and riparian restoration and salmon education on the Olympic Peninsula. We are proud to report that once again there was 100% Board participation in fundraising efforts. The impact of their energy, leadership and dedication is incalculable. Be in touch if being a part of this dynamic group sounds interesting to you!

PROJECT PARTNERS

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
Clallam County
Clarity Enterprises
Countless Private Land Owners
Dungeness Habitat LLC
EcoTrust
Environmental Protection Agency
Family Forest Fish Passage Program
Feiro Marine Life Center
First Federal Community Foundation
Floodplains By Design Program
Hood Canal Coordinating Council
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Jefferson County
Jefferson County Community Foundation
Jefferson County Conservation District
Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board
Jefferson County Public Schools

Jefferson Land Trust
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
North Olympic Land Trust
North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon
Peninsula Trails Coalition
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Point no Point Treaty Council
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Seattle Foundation: Phillips Memorial Fund
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Navy
WA Department of Ecology
WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
WA Department of Natural Resources
WA Department of Transportation
WA State Parks
WSU Extension: Jefferson County

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Emily Bishop, AmeriCorps Intern
Kim Clark, Project Manager
Sarah Doyle, Stewardship Coordinator
Nancy Erreca, Administrative Assistant
Kevin Long, Senior Project Manager
Nicole O'Hara, Development Manager

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION CORPS

July 1, 2015 thru September 30 2015
Emily Barry - Assistant Supervisor
Stephen Richardson - Corpsmember
Sam Langley - Corpsmember
Kirsten Woodsmith - Corpsmember
Sofie Brunner - Corpsmember

October 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016
Sammy Black - Corpsmember
Stephen Richardson - Assistant Supervisor
Anna Jackson - Corpsmember
Gabby Andrews - Corpsmember
Angel Arreola - Corpsmember
Owen French
Restoration Specialist & Crew Supervisor
Washington Conservation Corps

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

- Rachel Carson

Photo: Rachel Rogge

EDUCATE



RESTORE



CELEBRATE



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Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

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